

## Submission – includes Personal Details

### State Significant Development: Paling Yards Wind Farm

Date:

31/10-23

#### Personal Details:

Name:

Sig Sovik

Street Address:

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Suburb/Town:

DEERON NSW

Postcode:

2787

#### Applicant Details (no need to add any information here):

Name of Applicant: Paling Yards Wind Farm

Application Number: SSD-29064077

#### Have you made a reportable political donation?

Please circle:

Yes

No

*If you answer is **Yes**, please complete Political Donations Disclosure Statement provided separately.*

#### What is your View on the Paling Yards Proposal?

Please circle one of the following:

I support the project.

I'm providing comments.

I object to the project.

### My Comments

The government is, so it says, implementing a plan to give us cheap and reliable energy.

To do so it has selected a plan based on wind and solar that will produce the most expensive, the most inefficient, the most irregular and the most unpredictable energy setup conceivable.

To implement its plan the government is willing to destroy whatever amount of our natural environment or any community which may be in the way.

The situation is highly irrational, to put it mildly.

We will never agree to have the Oberon community and its natural beauty wantonly destroyed by the NSW Government implementing its useless solar and wind plans.

The NSW Government must reject the Paling Yards project.

### General

The EIS classify our landscape as of moderate or low "scenic quality": this is self-serving nonsense. Oberon's accessibility from Sydney, its still largely intact farming environment set in its natural landscape and combined with a distinct four-season climate is a unique place in this part of NSW; for the locals naturally, but also for increasing numbers of Sydney people (the latter of whom would no doubt also include many traditional labour voters).

The push for wind/solar renewables has politically been turned into a pure ideological issue. There is little doubt that ultimately it will be resolved through political means. The only question is what damage will be done to Australia in the meantime.

Required Australia-wide investments of \$9 trillion by 2060 is being mentioned. Despite the eye-watering numbers, it will still not provide us cheap and reliable energy. The trillions will be wasted.

One already sees wind installations overseas no more than 15years old put on the market as being uneconomic.

I understand that in Australia the payments to land holders for transmission lines and tower installations are to be amortised over 20 years. It is a fair assumption that most of these assets if built will technically and financially be stranded within their second decade after commissioning, and it will fall to the Australian people to fund a new round of investments chasing more suitable economic and technical solutions to our energy needs.

It is a pyramid scheme being driven forward by a superstructure of large government subsidies affecting electricity users and tax payers in the first instance; second and higher order consequences will degrade our industries and agriculture, our defence and security position, and destroy Australia's ability to maintain its standard of living.

A 1000 plus-plus pages EIS has been issued, and the people are given just four weeks to absorb this enormous amount of data and submit their comments. Apart from lack of clarity on any of the overriding issues mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the information included is partial and/or unverifiable. Costings, whether for dollars or climate outcomes or necessary transition costs or

environmental destruction are incomplete; externalities are ignored. It is largely an exercise – intentionally or not - in deflecting attention from the real issues.

### Oberon LGA

The population in the Oberon LGA is about 5500. Its economy is based on farming, tourists and the timber industry. Farming goes back 200 years and remains the single most important and unifying feature of the LGA. Farmers as a group contribute just under half the general rates income for council. The timber industry has grown up around easy resource access at local pine plantations.

The district is pretty much the first real rural community west of the mountains coming from Sydney. With its 1200m elevation and distinct four-season climate, the tourist industry – including events businesses (wedding venues; conferences, sports/recreational) - is the main growth area.

For farmers, the deep destruction of land values, the problems with third party access to land and attendant bio-security problems, the problem of payment for full remediation of the land after projected short economic useful lives of the installations, fire prevention and fire-fighting impacts, a future waste disposal problem of enormous proportions, and direct livestock impacts from noise pollution, waste and chemical spills, and runoffs into stock water and cropping will be a disaster.

The reality of Oberon as a long-term viable farming district will be irreparably damaged, and its social fabric will go with it.

The tourist industry relies entirely on the preservation of the rural landscape of Oberon for its existence. People do not come to Oberon to go to the casino. They come to experience the seasons – at a manageable travel distance from Sydney – the open spaces, the district vistas with a mix of farmed fields, forest and hill-country, access to fishable rivers - including the Abercrombie, access to national park areas, etc.

The timber industry – whether the towers and transmission lines are on private land or NSW Forestry land – ~~is that it~~ is based on local resource security. It relies on effective fire fighting including arial water bombing and active rural fire fighting crews. I do not think that an effective RFS is possible in this scenario; I cannot see fire crews adding further to their risks by agreeing to operate in an environment where wind towers potentially will elevate the fire frequency, the fire severity and the risk involved in fighting the fire. The EIS covers these issues barely at all.

It may be added that a not insignificant portion of the local economy is retiree and lifestyle property investments. If the community is to be surrounded by hundreds of wind towers that certainly would quickly come to a full halt. The political implications for Labour of the destruction of these peoples' property investment would extend well beyond the local electoral districts.

The implications of Paling Yards by itself are severe. If it goes ahead, behind it is another 500 towers suggested to be placed on NSW Forrest land (and an undetermined number of further incursions on private land) that will undoubtedly be justified on the same grounds. It will cause destruction of both the economy, the natural environment and the present community of Oberon.

SMS 2/11/23