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Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
NSW Government
Wallaby Creek Wind Farm
Application No: SSD-6024721
Location: 3.5km south of Narromine and 15 km north of Tomingley
Applicant: Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd
Council Area: Narromine Shire

RE: Objection to the Proposed Wallaby Creek Wind Farm,

Dear Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure,

I am writing to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Wallaby Creek Wind Farm in the Narromine Shire. The project includes up to 38 wind turbines, a large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS), and associated infrastructure, located approximately 3.5 kilometres from my town and nearby residences. I have serious concerns about the project's scale, proximity, and potential impacts on residential amenity, public safety, the environment, and local infrastructure.

1. Impacts on residential amenity.

The proposed turbines' proximity to homes raises significant concerns regarding noise, low-frequency vibration, and shadow flicker. At only 3.5 kilometres from residential areas, there is a real risk of adverse effects on health, wellbeing, sleep, and the peaceful enjoyment of properties. These impacts fall directly within the NSW planning framework's amenity considerations and must be assessed with caution.

2. Impact on the Narromine aviation and gliding industry

Narromine is nationally recognised for having some of the best flying conditions in Australia, particularly for gliding, with its stable thermals, open airspace, and long-established aviation culture. The introduction of up to 38 large wind turbines near this aviation hub poses significant risks to both recreational and commercial flight operations. Wind turbines can create turbulence, rotor wash, and unpredictable wind patterns that directly interfere with glider performance and safety. Their height also introduces new vertical obstacles into airspace that has historically been unobstructed, increasing collision risk and reducing the safe manoeuvring area for gliders, ultralights, and training aircraft. Any degradation of Narromine's unique flying conditions would negatively impact local aviation clubs, flight training schools, tourism, and the broader aviation economy that the town is known for.

2. Visual and landscape impacts

The installation of up to 38 large-scale turbines would dramatically alter the rural landscape and character of the region. The height and number of turbines would create a dominant industrial presence, replacing a natural, community-valued setting with an industrialised skyline. This represents a substantial and irreversible visual impact on both residents and visitors.

3. Battery energy storage system (BESS) safety risks

The inclusion of a large BESS introduces additional hazards, including fire risk, toxic smoke release, emergency response challenges, and noise from cooling and ventilation systems. These risks are well-documented in other jurisdictions. Locating such infrastructure close to homes and businesses is inappropriate and creates unnecessary community anxiety. It also places additional pressure on local emergency services, which may not be equipped to manage a high-voltage battery incident.

4. Environmental and biodiversity impacts

The project poses potential risks to local bird and bat populations, as well as broader habitat disruption during both construction and operation. The cumulative ecological impacts of a development of this scale must be thoroughly assessed and transparently communicated. The community requires confidence that biodiversity impacts have been properly evaluated and minimised.

5. Construction, traffic, and infrastructure impacts

The construction phase is likely to generate significant heavy vehicle movements, dust, noise, and road degradation. This will place strain on local infrastructure and create safety risks for residents. These impacts are particularly concerning for small rural communities with limited road capacity and maintenance budgets.

6. Inadequate community consultation

Many residents feel that the consultation process to date has been insufficient and has not meaningfully addressed local concerns. A project of this magnitude should only proceed with clear evidence of genuine engagement and broad community support. At present, this has not been demonstrated.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the proposal be refused, or at minimum subjected to further independent assessment, including more comprehensive community consultation and more rigorous evaluation of amenity, safety, environmental, and infrastructure impacts.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley and Sarah Paine