



Level 11, 75 Miller Street  
North Sydney NSW 2060  
P 02 8456 7404  
F 02 9922 6645

22 February 2021

Nigel and Sandra Wood  
By email: ndwood61@outlook.com  
Cc: nwfc@nwfc.gov.au

**RE: Complaint to the Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner  
Bowmans Creek Wind Farm**

Dear Nigel and Sandra,

The Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner has referred your complaint to us in relation to our proposal for the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm, approximately 10 kilometres east of Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter region of NSW.

**The Complaint**

We understand from the Office that your concerns as outlined in your complaint are as follows:

- Construction of two wind monitoring masts which were allegedly installed without appropriate approvals,
- Physical and mental health concerns, especially relating to Sandra as wind turbines will be visible, and
- The restrictive terms and conditions in the neighbour agreement presented by Epuron.

Epuron welcomes the opportunity to respond to you about these concerns. We hope that the following information will be of assistance.

- **Construction of two wind monitoring masts which were allegedly installed without appropriate approvals**

In August 2018 Epuron installed two temporary wind monitoring masts to measure wind speeds across the site. The installation of temporary wind monitoring masts in NSW does not require planning approval as they are considered exempt development under NSW legislation. The masts were installed to the required standards by a qualified installer and aviation authorities were advised of the new structures as per requirements.

However, following construction of the masts it came to our attention that while the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (SEPP) allows for temporary wind monitoring masts to be installed without Development Approval, it stipulates that the maximum height of a temporary mast must not exceed 110m above ground level, and therefore the masts which were 120m tall were 10m higher than permitted and did not meet all the requirements of the SEPP.

Epuron contacted both Singleton and Muswellbrook Shire Councils to apply for retrospective development approvals for the installed masts. In August 2019 we received conditional consent for one of the masts from Singleton Shire Council. In January 2020 we withdrew the development application for the second mast, lodged with Muswellbrook Shire Council and reduced the height of both masts to below 110m, in compliance with the SEPP. Both masts are compliant with the appropriate legislation.

We apologise if this has not been conveyed to you previously. We have endeavoured to inform the community about the process regarding construction of the two masts and to explain it at Community Consultative Committee meetings.

- **Physical and mental health concerns, especially relating to Sandra as wind turbines will be visible**

The relationship between the proximity of operating wind turbines and health effects has been the subject of extensive research and review by independent medical and research organisations including the Australian Medical Association and the National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC). To date there has been no evidence of a causal relationship between wind turbines and adverse health effects in either humans or animals.

The NHMRC, an independent statutory body established by the Commonwealth Government, conducted a review of all published health studies to determine specifically if there was any evidence of human health risks associated with wind farms, including any potential health impacts from wind turbine noise and visibility. The NHMRC concluded that *“there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans”*.

Further information on this subject can be found on the NHMRC website at <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/environmental-health/wind-farms> and the Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner’s website at <https://www.nwfc.gov.au/observations-and-recommendations/health-matters>

- **The restrictive terms and conditions in the neighbour agreement presented by Epuron.**

We are offering selected landowners with neighbouring properties the opportunity to benefit financially from the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm through a Neighbour Agreement. Landowners with a residence within three kilometres of a proposed turbine location are eligible. The agreements are voluntary and landowners are not obliged to enter them.

We are pleased to offer you a Neighbour Agreement. If you are not satisfied with the proposed agreement, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss it and gain a better understanding of the terms or conditions that you consider to be restrictive and hear your suggestions on what terms might make the agreement more acceptable.

We hope that the information provided in this response addresses your concerns.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Bowmans Creek Wind Farm is due to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment soon, and will include comprehensive and technical assessments in relation to noise, visual and environmental matters, along with proposed measures to minimise and mitigate any residual impacts. After the EIS has been reviewed by the Department it will go on public exhibition, during which time you will have the opportunity to make a submission to the Department about the proposal if you wish.

We will let you know as soon as the EIS is on exhibition, and we also plan to host local information sessions during the exhibition period to answer any questions about the proposal.

Otherwise, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss any remaining concerns you may have. and I am always available by email or telephone to answer questions about the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely,

Julian Kasby  
Project Manager  
Mobile: 0411 638 651  
Email: [j.kasby@epuron.com.au](mailto:j.kasby@epuron.com.au)