

## Thunderbolt Ridge Wind development submission

This is not a pretty story: this is ugly and ignorant and a story about bullies.

Thunderbolt Ridge Wind development signifies a second wave of colonial ignorance - a French company coming onto Australian land bought by a Chinese company, then clearing habitat bushland and felling habitat trees, shaking koalas to the ground, possibly injuring them, then digging huge supporting holes and filling them with concrete — a finite and in-demand resource — to erect huge noisy French-owned turbines on Chinese-owned acquired land and paying (probably) local councils \$100000 compensation to look the other way.

This project assumes the principle of *terra nullius* again - no one lives here, no one is around to hear the constant low frequency, disruptive drone of hundreds of blades mining our wind for French and Chinese profits. No-one is around to notice that endangered koalas and other species are being moved on to goodness knows where.

And after the 600-plus dozer drivers, engineers, and so on have erected these great white towers, they bugged off and the development appears to provide one job per annum — 29-30 jobs over 25-30 years.

After 25 or 30 years, what happens? Do they leave the towers to cripple the landscape, do they dig a big hole and bury them or do they do what most colonisers do? Just move on and leave the locals to deal with it? Because it was *terra nullius* after all?

And because small stakeholders don't really seem to matter in the face of big profits, there has been a dearth of consultation with the local community. The cunning of Noeon in putting up this proposal during COVID lockdowns demonstrates their cynicism towards this tedious process. Spruiking their social commitment to local consultation has been downright manipulative — one public meeting in a local public cafe while practising social distancing - consultation at 1.5 metres apart when many in the local community didn't want to mingle because of the fear of catching COVID — that's cynical on the part of this power-hungry company.

This development represents: profits overseas; locals ignored; conservation values bulldozed; alternatives such as low-impact solar microgrids ignored.

The local working, family-raising community has been given 28 days to read and comment on a huge many-page report on the proposed project that has obviously taken full-time consultants some years to put together: where is the equity in that decision? How is that a fair-go? We locals need more time to pour over this massive document and its implications locally, regionally and nationally.

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