Submission for the Liverpool Range Windfarm Revised Development Approval

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission for the Liverpool Windfarm Project. This project, along with the neighbouring Valley of the Winds Windfarm project, is creating a great deal of angst in the Coolah and surrounding communities. The NSW Department of Planning needs to take heed of these concerns and amend the development application accordingly.

The constructions of Liverpool Range Windfarm and associated infrastructure on private property and land of significant agricultural value must be subject to strict development controls, rules and regulations. Key controls and restrictions that must be observed include:

1. Wind Turbines

- Wind turbines should not be placed within a 5klm radius of any township including Coolah, Leadville and Cassilis. Wind turbines are massive structures and given the significant numbers of these towers as proposed by both the Liverpool Range and Valley of the Winds windfarms (370 in Total) there will be a major visual blight on our beautiful countryside, along with significant noise and environmental damage particularly during construction.
- The height of windfarm towers (including the blades) should be limited to 180 meters (not up to 250m) where there are townships and residences within a 10klm radius of a wind tower. Building height restrictions are common in towns and cities across the country and the same principles should apply to windfarm towers on rural land.

2. Transmission Lines

• Powerline infrastructure (330kv lines and smaller) within the windfarm footprint must be buried underground. This is to minimise the visual blight of this type of infrastructure and also to eliminate the impact on farming activities (such as aerial spraying and supering) that such infrastructure will greatly inhibit.

3. Decommissioning

• An adequate legally enforceable decommissioning fund covering the cost of removal of wind towers, transmission infrastructure and associated works at the end of the windfarms useful life must be mandatory with adequate contributions to the fund made from the commencement of the windfarm operations

4. Compensation

• Adequate annual compensation provisions must also be made for landholders and residences neighbouring wind towers, substations and transmission line infrastructure. Landholders required to host substations

and transmission infrastructure should be compensated on an annual rental basis – not a one-off payment.

• Generous community funds should also be made mandatory to compensate the community for the long-term impacts of this large-scale development

5. Environment

• The Windfarm Developer and Operator must be subject to the strictest environmental controls during construction and operation so as to minimise the destruction of trees, vegetation and native habitat. The development must also be subject to strict controls to prevent erosion and be responsible for the rehabilitation of areas that have been subject to erosion. The developer must adhere to the environmental and habitat requirements that are currently in place for the Regent Honeyeater

6. Insurance

• The windfarm project approval must be conditional upon both landholders hosting windfarms and neighbouring landholders and residence being guaranteed access to adequate public liability insurance

7. Cumulative Impact

• The Development Approval process for the Liverpool Range Windfarm must also consider the cumulative impact of the Valley of the Winds Windfarm on the township of Coolah and the surrounding farmland.