

Garry Glencross

Primary Producer

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NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Department of Planning and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Subject: Objections/Concerns Regarding Spicer's Creek Wind Farm Project

Dear Members of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Garry Glencross, and I am writing to express my concerns as a community member and primary producer of more than 47 years. I am writing to express my concerns and objections regarding the Spicer's Creek Windfarm Project that is currently under consideration. While I fully appreciate the efforts and intentions behind the project, I believe it is crucial to address the following issues before proceeding further:

1. Reduction of land value: I purchased two properties, 'Yurunga' and co purchased 'Woodlands' with my son Andrew, with the intention of succession planning and continuing the farming legacy I started back on our original farms at Lahey's Creek.
I have met with project managers from Squadron Energy, and they have tried to convince us with studies they found that land value won't change.
From reading information from farmers in Victoria who have had large scale wind farms built on or neighbouring their properties, land value has changed due to the reduction in potential buyers wanting to buy properties located within or next to windfarm projects.
I never intended to sell these properties, but with the proposal of the windfarm it has crossed my mind, I am now fearful that we won't get what the properties are worth and will not be able to sell the properties as the productive businesses that they are currently. I want investigated:
 - Why Squadron Energy would present us with false studies that do not take into consideration the current experiences of farmers living on valuable farmland.
 - How Squadron Energy plan on compensating us for loss of land value.
 - If we don't sell the properties, reduced land value reduces our borrowing equity to be able to purchase additional farmland and farm assets, I do not see any plans in Squadron Energy's EIS report that identify how they will support farmers they put in this position. This needs to be identified and acted on before any approval can take place. The

pathetic neighbour agreement that we were presented with an offer of \$10,000 per year and such an imbalanced agreement that our solicitors told us not to sign if we want any rights, is not a suitable solution.

- If I continue to live on this farm and operate a farming business next to a wind farm, my farm insurance is due to go up more than \$10,000 this year alone. The \$10,000 Squadron Energy offer in their neighbour agreements does not even cover this additional expense they have added to my extensive outputs. Squadron Energy need to identify more fair compensation they will provide local landholders neighbouring the project as what they are offering me does not even begin to cover the costs I am already incurring without the project existing.

2. Dishonest representation of landholder perspective: Squadron Energy have approached us regarding reducing impact of visual amenity. We had a company that Squadron Energy hired to assess this impact from 'Yurunga' twice. Both times they presented impact photos where the tone of the turbines looked grey, and the pictures did not represent what turbines look like in real life. We have the Bodangora Windfarm only 10km down the road. These turbines are half the size and almost always look bright white.

When Squadron returned to 'Yurunga', they showed us an aerial image of where they wanted to plant trees to help with screening out the turbines. The identified area was on top of the septic system of the house and underneath powerlines. When we showed them the problem with the identified area, they asked us about further into the paddock, again we identified it was still close to powerlines and it would be on top of the water infrastructure we have had put in place to reticulate water to a central point that then feeds out to water troughs for livestock. At that time Squadron Energy project managers Kristin and Trish said that the option wasn't feasible. We then received an email just prior to the display of the EIS report to let us know that in the report it states we had rejected the screening option. This is not accurate, we did not reject the option, we showed the Squadron Energy project managers the problem with the screening option, and they identified that it wasn't feasible. Squadron Energy also requested we get quotes on manually screening the expansive alfresco area that takes in the view of the Spicer's Creek Windfarm Project, we are still awaiting a builder to attend our property. Due to large volume of other renewable projects in the area, builders are taken up by these projects and are not available to assist with simple jobs, such as home building projects. We also have a set of cattle yards that are yet to be constructed, these were purchased over 6 months ago, again we don't have builders.

What I want:

- For a representative of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to attend my property 'Yurunga' to see the screening option and the visual impact of the project themselves prior to the approval of the Spicer's Creek Windfarm project.
- For Squadron Energy to accurately represent my opinion of the screening in their EIS report or the report should not be approved.
- For the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to accurately assess the number of trades people that will be available for local businesses to continue to improve business operations when all trades people will be taken by the numerous renewable energy projects being built in this area.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these concerns in more detail and explore possible solutions. I am also concerned by the number of affected residents that have signed away their right to complaint that would also like a voice, the dealing with our community needs to be investigated and the dodgy contracts Squadron Energy have presented to local landholders sited by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The impacts that I have identified from the proposed Spicer's Creek Windfarm Project are extremely concerning to me, thus I am opposed to this project until I see action on the points and actionable recommendations I have made in the above submission.

Sincerely,

Garry Glencross