

PALING YARDS WIND FARM SUBMISSION

Project Name: Paling Yards Wind Farm

Application Number: SSD – 29064077

Assessment Type: State Significant Development

Development Type: Electricity Generation – Wind

Local Government Area: Oberon

I live at O'Connell, New South Wales, near Bathurst and I wish to lodge an objection against the construction of the proposed project known as "Paling Yards Wind Farm" based on the following:

- **Potential loss of the integrity of the O'Connell ANZAC Memorial Avenue caused by transportation of the wind turbine components.**

The proposed transport route for the wind turbine components runs through the 100 years old O'Connell ANZAC Memorial Avenue which is dedicated to the men and women who enlisted from O'Connell and district in World War I.

The O'Connell ANZAC Memorial Avenue is comprised of 120 Desert Ash trees which are native to northern Africa and southern Europe, the areas where the troops fought. The trees were raised from seed imported from the Middle East by the Royal Botanic Gardens, and grown at the Bathurst Experimental Farm.

The O'Connell ANZAC Memorial Avenue is of rare historical significance and is particularly noted for the planting of Desert Ash trees, chosen for their hardiness and links to World War I battle sites.

The spreading high branches of the Desert Ash connect above O'Connell Road to create a grand effect of a "Cathedral of Trees". I regard this as a sacred place which is deeply significant to the community of O'Connell and district.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project states that in order to transport the Wind Farm components along the route, oversize over mass vehicles measuring 6 metres in width and 5.7 metres high would be required. This means that these huge vehicles would require a 1 metre clearance on each side and extra clearance in height. This equates to an envelope of 8 metres clear in width and at least 6 metres in height clearance to allow for variations in the road surface.

The EIS has vaguely stated, without specific reference to the O'Connell ANZAC Memorial Avenue, that some pruning and tree removal will be required. This, in my opinion, under the proposed dimensions of the vehicles, would destroy the integrity of the structure of the Cathedra effect. It would also leave the trees in an unbalanced state because to achieve the proposed clearance most of the major boughs would be lopped along the road side of each tree. While it might be said that the effected boughs would re-grow, such harsh pruning would weaken and de-stabilise the trees.

I regard such drastic pruning as a major loss to the integrity of the Memorial Avenue and the desecration of a War Memorial.

- **The Environmental Impact Statement is deficient in heritage assessment.**

The EIS is incomplete in failing to include a heritage assessment for O'Connell or any area other than the Paling Yards Wind Farm site.

This, in my opinion, indicates that the Proponent has no sensitivity to the significance of heritage along the transport route.

- **No consultation with the O'Connell community**

There has been no consultation with the O'Connell community. Nor have I received any information by way of a mail box flyer regarding the Paling Yards Wind Farm.

I note from the EIS that there were notices in the Oberon Review, the Crookwell Gazette and via 2BS radio station. There is also mention in the EIS that residents within a 5 km radius of the site were encouraged to attend community consultations with the proponent. This, in my opinion, indicates that the proponent considers there would be no community impact along the transport route.

I regard the advertising of such community information dates as inadequate especially as the transport route and impact was not made clear. This would have alerted community members of O'Connell to become involved in such sessions.

I consider that this degree of advertising for community information sessions has been totally inadequate as many people in our community are tuned to alternative media outlets and consequently missed the message completely.

- **Outside a designated Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)**

The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm project is outside a designated REZ which I regard as an unacceptable development.

Yours faithfully,

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