

"Gracedale Acreage"
971 Arundel Rd
Kyalite,
NSW 2715
lkhodgson@iinet.net.au

30 July 2024

Via email: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/junction-rivers-wind-farm-formerly-burrawong-wind-farm>

Dear Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure,

We vehemently oppose the Junction Rivers Wind Farm proposal of 96, 300m high wind turbines that will be constructed adjacent to our property. See attached photos. Application number SSD30448824.

My husband Lenny and I are the owners of Gracedale Acreage, a 4000-hectare agricultural cropping property. My husband is a third-generation farmer that was born, raised and lives in the Kyalite district. We have invested millions of dollars and decades of hard work to establish our farm and to provide our children with the opportunity to take over the farm when that time comes, should they wish to do so. Their future and our hard work and investment is now in danger due to Windlab's proposed installation and operation of 96 x 300m tall wind turbines which are to be located approximately 5.5km from our family home and a mere 50m from our crops.

The proposed development is known as "Junction Rivers". Its name is derived from the 3 surrounding rivers and is being constructed on prime agricultural cropping land. We have had several meetings with Windlab at our home and have raised our concerns regarding the proposed development with them directly. Windlab have submitted their proposal to the NSW government, and we do NOT want this industrial factory to go ahead.

I have particularized our main concerns regarding Windlab's proposed development below and the reasons why we are objecting to the proposal:

1. INCREASED COSTS – CROP SPRAYING: We have had three meetings with Windlab at our home during which we raised our concerns regarding this issue. During one of those meetings, Windlab had a wind expert from Canberra attend via Zoom, and we had our agronomist attend in person. We discussed how Windlab's proposed development would likely affect air inversions and off target chemical drift. Windlab's wind expert asserted that he didn't know about and could not say whether their proposed development would impact upon:

- a. Wind inversions and chemical drift potential; and
- b. The volatilization of chemical products currently used by us to spray our crops, specifically whether those products would, due to Windlab's proposed development, likely volatilize after application drift over to and impact upon our neighbor's high value pistachio crop.

Given Windlab's inability to confirm what impact their proposed development would have upon our crop spraying we have, out our own expense, engaged an agronomist (who has over 35 years' experience in this region) to evaluate the additional cost to our business if we changed the chemicals that we currently use. He confirms that the extra costs incurred by us at today's market rate would be a minimum of \$160,000.00 per annum as we would have to move to more expensive herbicide options.

We provided this information, including the specific herbicides currently used and those which must be used should the proposed development proceed, to Windlab. They confirmed that they would have their experts review our agronomist's report but to date they have not provided a response.

It is hard enough as a simple farmer who monitors the weather reports daily, to anticipate the wind in our natural environment. To place that onus upon that same farmer where that natural environment is affected by Windlab installing wind-turbines on the scale proposed in their development application is, by any description, unreasonable.

2. AERIAL SPRAYING: During each of the meetings we have had with Windlab, we have asked them to confirm what effect their proposed development will have upon us being able to continue conducting aerial spraying on our property. Aerial spraying has previously been used by us to eradicate pest and disease infestations of our crop and if we cannot continue to use this method of pest and disease eradication, we face losing our crop and financial ruin. Notwithstanding this, Windlab can't or won't provide any indication, undertaking or guarantee that aerial spraying will still be an option for us should their proposed development be approved.
3. INCREASED INSURANCE COSTS: Attached you will find photos of our Farm. The very valuable Pistachio nut farm is located directly across the road from us, and Windlab's proposed development, if approved, will be constructed along our fence line. We crop 4000 hectares per year, and we try to be as productive as possible whilst still protecting the other farms from chemical damage. The greater potential for chemical drift caused by the proposed development will inevitably increase our insurance premiums. Furthermore, the proposed installation and operation of 96 x 300m wind turbines on the neighboring property will also result in higher insurance premiums to us, if for no other

reason than the millions of dollars of infrastructure that the proposed development represents, constitutes a greater potential loss from events such as fire emanating from our property and causing damage.

4. THE UNKNOWN EFFECTS: Windlab have confirmed that they are not allowed to build a windfarm within 5km of a township. Presumably this is because of adverse effects to the inhabitants of a township. Yet there is little publicly available information as to what those effects are. To date there are too many variables in the media and online as to the impacts on the health of humans, animals, our beautiful birdlife- pelicans & wedge tail eagles. Then there is the cause and effect of contamination into our waterway river system and the proximity to our beautiful heritage listed - Yanga National Park, which is only 8-10 kms away from the proposed development.
5. VISUAL & AUDIBLE EFFECTS: At this time, we don't know what those effects will have upon our livestock, our workers or our family. Once again however I refer to the minimum 5km distance that a windfarm must have within a township and reiterate that the proposed development in this case consists of the installation and operation of 96 x 300m tall wind turbines, and they will be constructed within a mere 5.5km from our house and 50m from our cropping paddocks! How can there NOT be ongoing mental health & well-being issues, when these monstrosities are built in our front yard? To give you a visual perspective - each 300m wind turbine will soar as high as the Eiffel Tower in Paris or a little closer to home, the Skydeck Building in Melbourne! When you see these buildings in real life you understand why we are objecting to this industrial development!
6. PROPERTY DEVALUATION: The question must be asked; what will the value of our land be should the proposed development proceed from a resale perspective? Speaking as a third-generation farming family, given the aforementioned points I can say that we would be thinking twice about purchasing any land neighboring a wind farm. If we have concerns, then it is inevitable that prospective buyers will have them too. However, our main concern is, if the land is devalued and farm debts are high, the banks have the right to slash our equity and can foreclose! How is this fair? when the government has allowed this industrial estate to be built beside us with no thought as to what the impacts will be to our agricultural business!
7. SALINITY PROBLEMS: Approximately ten years ago, Mineral Sands Mining Company came to our property to investigate our land to determine if it was viable to mine for their minerals. They drilled several holes in many areas of our cropping paddocks and discovered that there is an existing water table a mere 5 meters below the surface, which is as salty as the sea. The problem we foresee is the base construction of the wind turbines. To construct a 300m high wind turbine it needs approximately 200 tons of steel mesh and around 2000 tons of concrete poured into the ground to stabilize its foundation. We are extremely worried that this could alter the direction of the waterway leading to the salt table rising to the surface. If this was to happen it would turn our highly productive cropping land into a desert. Once again, we raised this issue

with Windlab and they couldn't answer the question.

8. 2 X RENEWABLE SOLAR ENERGY FARMS ALREADY EXIST IN THE KYALITE AREA. One farm IS NOT connected to the grid! The solar farm is 8 years old and is a ¼ of the way through its shelf life. How can you justify committing to a wind factory proposal when the substation is not large enough to hold the power? This includes the new lines that are being erected, the power cannot be used by the substation, SO WHY BUILD IT HERE?
9. PUBLIC INTEREST: This is prime CROPPING land. NOT grazing land. NOT timber land. We are known here at Kyalite as the golden triangle. We supply a large quantity of grain to help feed Australia. The impact of Windfarms popping up in prime cropping land will see the deterioration of grain supply. Our web research shows that most wind farms are built on escarpments and in mostly rangeland areas. (e.g Goulburn NSW) If wind farms were allowed to be built in prime cropping country where will our Politicians turn, when we simply can't afford to feed our country? When our livestock has no grain to eat? When the cost of a loaf of bread increases to \$15.00 because we must import our grain from overseas, simply because we didn't have the foresight to predict the outcomes from these poor location decisions as to the erection of wind factories.
10. FALSIFYING PHOTOS: The photos of scrub land & salt bush country that are depicted in their submission application are FALSE! Here at Kyalite, sits prime cropping agricultural land and it would appear NO reference has been made to the impact on cropping practices!
11. PRESSURE TO SIGN A CONTRACT: Windlab have attempted to get us to agree to the installation and operation of their wind turbines, with small monetary contracts admitting in the contract there "may be" impacts to our property such as dust, noise, visual & aviation impacts. When we questioned Windlab at some length at a community meeting at our "Locally farmer owned pub" they couldn't or wouldn't answer our questions of what it would be like living beside 300m high wind turbines! Windlab have tried to buy support from us and the Kyalite community by offering one-time deals on electricity bills. Their inability to answer our concerns is alarming and we simply can't fathom why there is no onus upon them to identify what effects their proposed development is likely to have upon our business, our health and our livelihood, prior to entering any negotiations designed to gain our support.
12. WHO WILL OWN THIS WINDFARM IN 2 YEARS' TIME?
13. WHO DO WE SUE IF THE WINDTURBINE CATCHES FIRE AND BURNS OUR CROPS? NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR, THE GOVERNMENT OR WHO? Again, no-one can answer our questions?

14. THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED: Why disrupt and divide townships that up until now were thriving and prospering?

The mental and financial turmoil to object to these projects is demonstrative to say the least.

15. WE ARE FARMERS NOT LOBBYISTS!

The way neighboring Farmers of wind Turbines see it...

YOU the government DON'T MIND and WE THE NEIGHBORS DON'T SEEM TO MATTER!

Please take into consideration our objection. It comes from the heart. If you would like to speak to us further, you can contact us.

Kind regards,

Lennie Hodgson
Mobile Ph: 0488138689.

Kellie Hodgson
Mobile Ph: 0488170945.

Photomontage 11 Private Viewpoint BALWF67

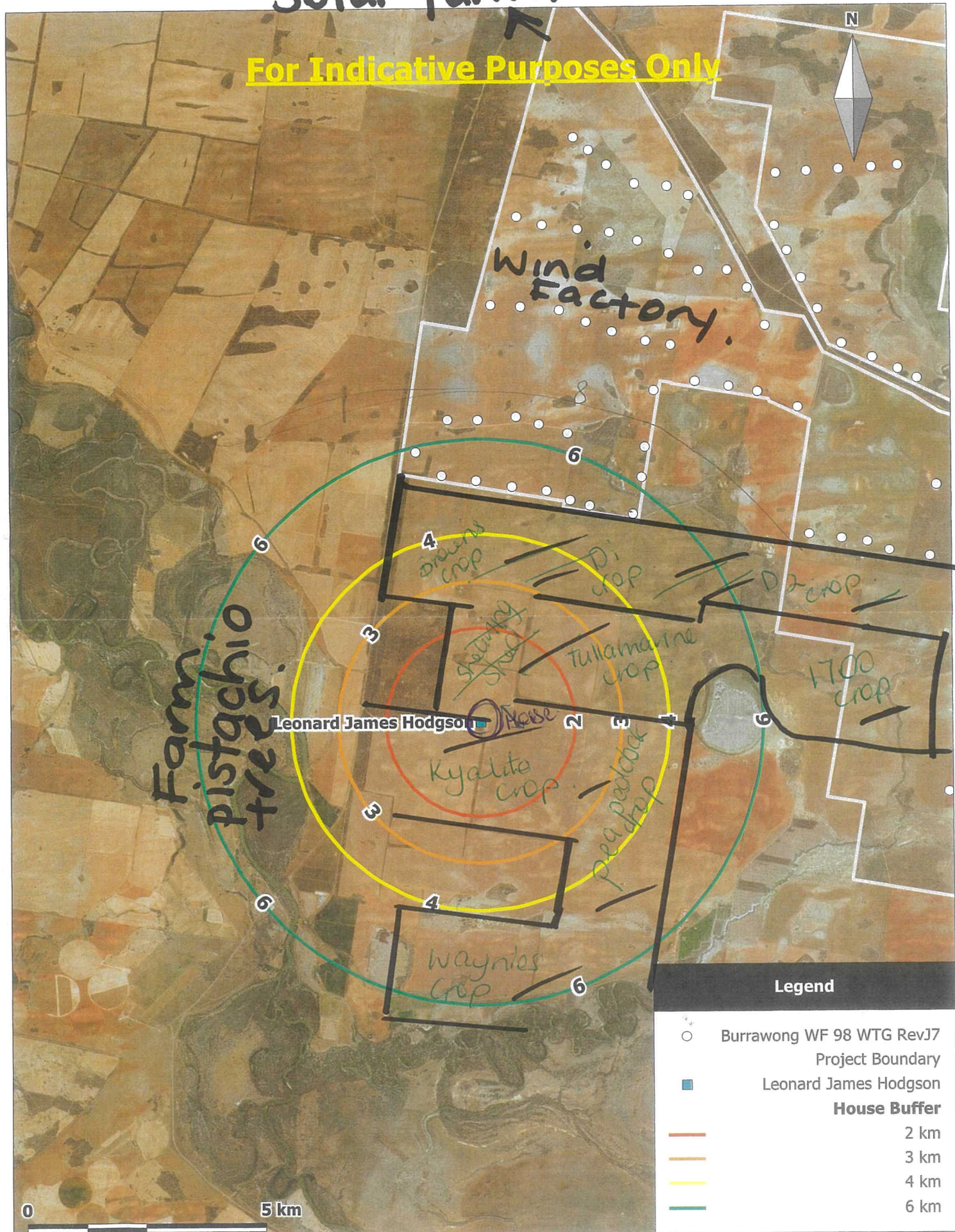
The view from my Kitchen window!



60° Photomontage A Cropped

solar farm.

For Indicative Purposes Only



For Indicative Purposes Only



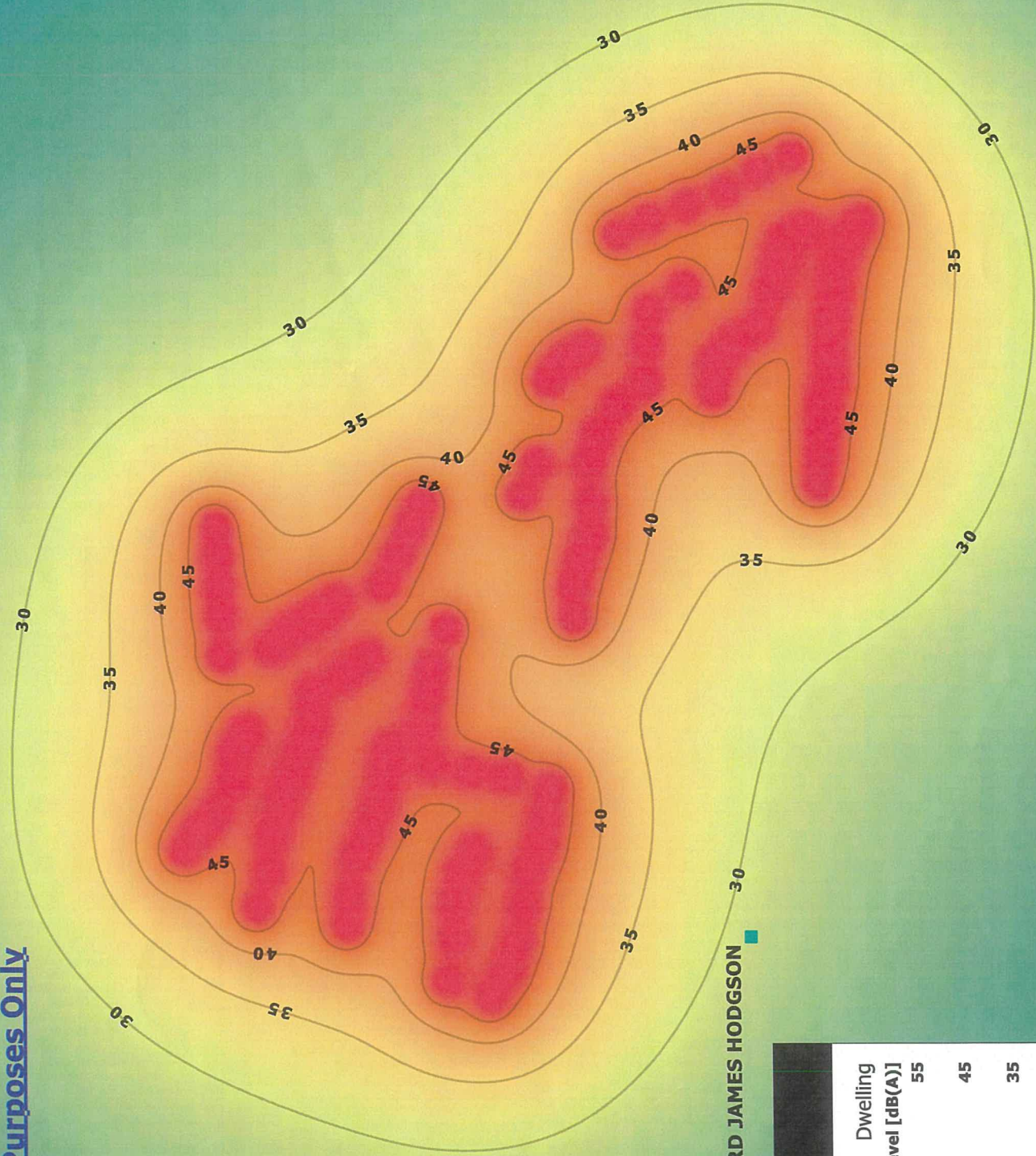
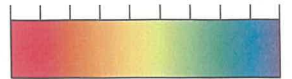
LEONARD JAMES HODGSON

Legend

Dwelling

GW165 6MW Noise level [dB(A)]

55
45
35
25
10



Form of Letter 2 – Hodgson Land Holdings Pty Ltd

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

Junction Rivers - Development Application SSD-30448824

Dear Minister,

Hodgson Land Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 614 667 542 (**Hodgson**) owns folio identifiers: AUTO CONSOL 6561-137 (being Lot 25 & 26 in DP756528), 8/756588, and 9/756588 being known as Part 'Gracedale' Kyalite NSW (the **Property**).

Hodgson confirms it has entered into an agreement with Junction Rivers Pty Limited ACN 658 060 523 in which Hodgson acknowledges and agrees that:

- (i) the construction of the Junction Rivers Wind Farm ^{will have} ~~may have~~ some impacts on the Property, including as a result of increased visual, noise, dust, aviation, and traffic impacts;
- (ii) the operation of the Junction Rivers Wind Farm ^{will} ~~may~~ have ~~some~~ impacts on the Property, including as a result of increased visual, noise, and aviation impacts; and
- (iii) any dwellings on the Property are associated with the Junction Rivers Wind Farm in relation to visual, noise, dust, aviation, and traffic impacts for the purposes of development application number SSD-30448824 and the conditions of any development consent (as may be modified from time to time) granted in respect of the development application.

Yours sincerely,

Hodgson Land Holdings Pty Ltd (ACN 614 667 542)

Signed on behalf of Hodgson Land Holdings by its sole director and sole secretary:

.....
Kellie Jane Hodgson

Buying Support from Community!

