To whom it may concern,

My name is Brad Rae. I am local to the Kyalite community and have been for my entire life, like that of my father and his father before him. We are generational farmers. I currently reside at the given address with my wife and our 3 young children. We live right on the banks of The Edwards River. I farm our current farm “Warrawee’ and also farm alongside my father, Greg Rae at his property at ‘Yal Yal’. We are mainly a sheep and cropping business, however not subject to those avenues.

I am writing to you today to express my vehement opposition to the proposed wind farm development on our neighbouring properties, citing a multitude of grave concerns that have surfaced as a result of the project's potential impact on our community and environment. As a concerned resident deeply invested in the well-being and sustainability of our surroundings, I feel compelled to outline the various issues that have arisen in relation to this proposed wind farm. *Please note concerns are of equal concern and carry no importance of order by numbers.

1. Community Well-being and Social Cohesion – It is to knowledge that the project appears to have been spearheaded by a few individuals with only an interest for personal financial gain, rather than a collaborative effort that considers the needs and opinions of our whole community and of neighbouring farms. It’s disappointing to see decisions made without regard for the impact of others. This choice alone reflects a focus on personal gain rather than addressing the genuine needs of sustainable farming and long term land use. This decision has lead to a huge concern on the impact on our community and the social implications. The imposition of industrial-scale infrastructure in our rural setting has already created tensions among residents, already dividing the community and eroding the sense of peace and harmony that we currently enjoy. It is essential to consider the broader social impacts of the project and ensure that the concerns and well-being of local residents are taken into account.

2. Public Engagement and Transparency –
The decision to move forward with such a significant project should involve thorough consultation with all stakeholders. Unfortunately, it seems this was not the case.
The absence of adequate public engagement and transparency raises serious questions about the legitimacy and accountability of the decision-making process. Local residents deserve to have access to all relevant information regarding the proposed project, including its potential impacts on the environment, wildlife, and community well-being.

Meaningful public engagement is crucial for fostering trust, collaboration, and support for any development project. By excluding the local community from the decision-making process, there is a risk of alienating residents and overlooking their valuable insights and concerns.
Transparency in the decision-making process is essential for ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed and have the opportunity to voice their opinions and feedback. Without transparency, there is a lack of accountability and oversight, which can lead to decisions that do not reflect the best interests of the community.

3. Extreme Heat - The extreme heat conditions in our region pose a significant challenge for the operation and maintenance of wind turbines, as high temperatures can lead to overheating and mechanical failures. These heat-related issues may not only affect the efficiency and performance of the turbines but also pose safety risks to workers and nearby residents.
It is essential to consider the impact of prolonged exposure to high temperatures on the structural integrity and functionality of the wind turbines. Overheating can cause components to expand, leading to increased wear and tear, decreased efficiency, and potential malfunctions that could compromise the safety and reliability of the turbines.
Furthermore, the overheating of wind turbines can also have implications for fire safety, as hot components and mechanical failures may increase the risk of fires breaking out in and around the turbine structures. Given the dry and hot conditions in our area, the potential for wildfires sparked by overheated turbines is a serious concern that must be addressed. Temperatures as high as 47 degrees have been recorded in direct sunlight, with heat waves being common occurrences during summer months. I would be highly concerned when those heat waves occur, what would be the implications on the turbines functioning efficiently and my greater concern of fire breaks with our boundary being so close. Fire outbreaks have the risk of effecting potential crops and livestock.

4. Fire hazard - it is essential to acknowledge the potential risks associated with wind turbines, particularly concerning fire hazards. The proximity of the proposed wind turbines to our farm boundaries, raises legitimate concerns about the safety of our properties, crops, and livestock.
Several factors contribute to the heightened fire risks associated with wind turbines, including:
1. **Electrical Malfunctions**: Wind turbines contain complex electrical systems that can be prone to malfunctions, potentially leading to sparks or fires. Given the proximity of the turbines to our farms, any electrical issues could pose a significant threat to our livelihoods.
2. **Mechanical Failures**: The mechanical components of wind turbines, such as gearboxes and generators, are susceptible to failures that could result in overheating and, in extreme cases, fires. These risks are of particular

concern given their potential impact on our farming operations. Also, it more of concern during high temperatures during our summer months.
3. **Lightning Strikes**: Wind turbines are vulnerable to lightning strikes due to their height and exposure. A direct lightning strike could not only damage the turbines but also create a fire hazard for our surrounding farms.
4. **Response and Mitigation**: While wind farm operators may have fire prevention measures in place, the effectiveness of these measures in mitigating fire risks to neighbouring properties remains uncertain. The potential consequences of a fire spreading to our farms are too grave to overlook. Again, a great concern for the potential fire outbreaks having these turbines so close to our property boundaries.

5. Loss of Prime Agricultural Land – The development of the wind farm would result in the loss of prime agricultural land, diminishing our capacity for food production and threatening the agricultural heritage that sustains our community. The encroachment of industrial infrastructure on fertile farmland could undermine our agricultural resilience and self-sufficiency, impacting the long-term viability of our rural economy.
We propose to seek more arid land or grazing land to spare our cropping or potential cropping lands of Australia.

6. Salinity - Salinity issues in agricultural land can have detrimental effects on soil fertility, crop productivity, and the long-term sustainability of farming operations. We need to consider the potential environmental impacts, including those related to salinity, when siting wind farms in agricultural areas.

Several factors contribute to the risk of salinity problems associated with wind farm development, including:

Land Disturbance: The construction of wind turbines and associated infrastructure can disrupt soil structure, drainage systems, and natural hydrological processes, potentially leading to waterlogging and salt mobilization in the soil.

Changes in Water Table: Alterations in local hydrology due to wind farm development can impact water table levels in agricultural land, affecting soil salinity dynamics and exacerbating existing salinity issues.

Erosion and Runoff: Increased soil erosion and stormwater runoff from wind farm construction activities can contribute to sedimentation in water bodies and the transport of salts to agricultural fields, further intensifying salinity problems.

Vegetation Loss: Clearing vegetation for wind farm development can diminish the natural cover that helps regulate soil moisture and prevent salt accumulation, potentially increasing the risk of salinity in agricultural land.

7. Visual and Aesthetic Concerns – Our region is known for its picturesque landscapes and scenic views, which attract tourists and residents alike. The presence of large wind turbines on the horizon can disrupt these views and

alter the visual character of our environment. The towering structures of the turbines can be seen for miles around, dominating the skyline and detracting from the natural beauty that makes our region special. The installation of towering wind turbines in our rural landscape would irreversibly alter the natural beauty and visual appeal of our surroundings. The industrial presence of these structures would mark the picturesque landscape that we cherish, diminishing the aesthetic charm that defines our community and impacting our quality of life. (Please refer to the 'Warrawee photo document' page 3, photo 4 that shows our view from our home that overlooks the proposed line of wind turbines).

8. Noise and Health Concerns – Noise pollution from wind turbines can have detrimental effects on the well-being and quality of life of residents living in close proximity to the project site. Studies have shown that continuous exposure to high levels of noise can lead to stress, sleep disturbances, and other health issues, ultimately affecting the physical and mental health of individuals in the community.

Moreover, the tranquility and peace of the local environment may be disrupted by the constant noise generated by the wind turbines, potentially diminishing the appeal of the area for residents, visitors, and wildlife alike. This could have negative implications for property values, tourism, and the overall attractiveness of our community as a place to live and work.

I urge you to consider the concerns of residents who will be directly impacted by the noise generated by the wind farm and to prioritize the well-being and quality of life of the community in any decision-making process. It is crucial to conduct thorough studies on the potential noise levels and their effects on residents, as well as to explore alternative solutions or mitigation measures to minimize noise pollution from the wind turbines.

9. Workplaces in close proximity – critical work areas such our sheep yards, where we spend hours/ days throughout the year, are located within 3.5 kilometers of the proposed site (Please refer the 'Warrawee photo document' Page 1, Photo 1 & 2 that outlines the distance of the proposed turbines). The potential effects of low-frequency noise, shadow flicker and other disturbances on our daily operations and well-being cannot be underestimated. It is essential to consider the impact of the wind farm on all aspects of our farm life, not just our residential property.

10. Noise nuisance for our working dogs - As essential partners in our daily work, it is crucial to consider the impact of noise pollution from wind turbines on their well-being and performance. As you maybe aware, dogs hearing is as much as 5 times more sensitive than our own.
Working dogs, such as those used in herding and farm activities, rely heavily on their acute sense of hearing to carry out their tasks effectively. The continuous noise generated by wind turbines, including the low-frequency

vibrations and mechanical sounds, could disrupt their ability to focus, communicate, and navigate their surroundings.
Prolonged exposure to high levels of noise can have detrimental effects on the mental and physical health of animals, including stress, anxiety, hearing damage, and behavioral changes. It is essential to prioritize the welfare of our working dogs and ensure that they are not subjected to unnecessary distress or discomfort due to noise disturbances from the wind farm.
I urge you to conduct a thorough assessment of the potential noise impacts on our working dogs and implement measures to mitigate any adverse effects. This may include soundproofing measures, distance setbacks, or operational adjustments to minimize noise levels near areas where our dogs work and reside. Again, mentioning that one of our main sheep yards is within a 3.5km radius of multiple turbines.

11. Mental Health – The cumulative impact of the wind farm on our community's mental health cannot be overlooked, with the constant visual and auditory reminders of the turbines potentially leading to stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues among residents. The loss of tranquility and natural beauty in our surroundings could have profound effects on our overall well-being and quality of life. Not to mention the adverse affect on mental health on community members who are under a magnitude of stress, researching their worrying concerns opposing this wind farm, putting time and money we don't have, to have our concerns heard.

12. Environmental Impact – Our countryside is home to a wide variety of native wildlife, including a vast number of bird species that are integral to our ecosystem. The proposed site for the wind farm is a crucial habitat for these birds, many of which are already facing threats to their populations.

Of particular concern are the **wedge-tailed Eagle (**refer to the 'Warrawee Photo document' page 4, photo 5 of two wedge-tailed eagle nests on our property that are within a close distance from the proposed turbines), the **white-bellied sea eagle**, the **Major Mitchell cockatoo** (refer to the 'Warrawee Photo document' page 5, photo 6, of Major Mitchell's eating seeds from the pine trees in kyalite), and the **Bush-Stone Curlew** , all of which are protected under various environmental conservation laws due to their vulnerable status. **The Wedge-Tailed Eagle**, for example, is protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 in Victoria and is safeguarded across all states and territories in Australia. Similarly, **The White-Bellied Sea Eagle** is listed under marine and migratory categories, granting it protected status under Australia's federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Furthermore, the **Major Mitchell cockatoo** is listed as *vulnerable to extinction* under the same Act, highlighting the fragility of their population and not to be overlooked is the **Bush-Stone Curlew,** which is listed as *endangered* under the threatened species conservation Act 1995.

The construction and operation of wind turbines in this area pose a significant threat to these bird species, through collision risks. The spinning blades of the turbines can result in fatal collisions for birds that frequent the area, potentially leading to a decline in their already vulnerable populations. Also through the destruction and clearing of their habitat. Clearing trees and bush land for the construction of the proposed turbines and as well as clearing these habitats when widening/ improving roads that lead to the turbines can and will disrupt not only these bird species but many more. I am fearful for the populations of these birds.
(Please refer to the 'Warrawee photo document' page 6, photo 7 for more animal species we have photos of from around our farm.)

13. GPS, Satellite and Phone signal interruptions –
As a resident of this community, I rely heavily on GPS navigation systems for both personal and professional purposes. Any interference or disruption to GPS signals could have significant consequences, affecting not only my daily activities but also the safety and efficiency of various services that rely on accurate GPS data.
Moreover, the potential impact on satellite communications is a major concern, especially in a world where connectivity is crucial for staying connected, accessing information, and conducting business. Any disturbance to satellite signals could hinder communication networks, emergency services, and other essential functions that rely on reliable satellite technology.

Furthermore, the interference with phone signals raises serious alarm bells as it could lead to dropped calls, poor reception, and communication breakdowns, posing a risk to public safety and emergency response efforts.

Given these concerns, I urge you to thoroughly assess the potential impact of the wind farm on GPS, satellite, and phone signals through comprehensive studies and consultations with relevant experts in the field. It is essential to prioritize the protection of existing communication infrastructure and ensure that any proposed development does not compromise the reliability and effectiveness of these vital systems.

14. Property Values – The visual intrusion and noise pollution caused by the wind farm could significantly diminish property values in the area, impacting the financial well-being of homeowners and residents. The depreciation of property values would not only affect individual households but could also have broader economic repercussions for the entire community.

15. Drift Wind and Chemical Spraying – The proximity of the wind farm to our boundary fence raises concerns about drift wind and chemical spraying, posing risks to the health and safety of residents and livestock. The potential for aerial spraying and aircraft maneuvering in such close proximity further

compounds these concerns, highlighting the need for careful consideration of the potential hazards posed by the project. (Please refer to the 'Warrawee photo document' Page 2, photo 3 of one of our crops that share the boundary fence with the proposed wind turbines).

16.Loss of the Possibility of Residential Building – The presence of the wind farm near our boundary would preclude the possibility of ever building residential structures in the vicinity, limiting our options for future development and expansion. The loss of this potential for residential growth could hinder the sustainable development and growth of our community in the long term.

17. Livestock Health – The proximity of the wind farm to agricultural land raises concerns about the impact on livestock health, with potential disruptions to grazing patterns and breeding cycles. The noise, visual disturbances, and electromagnetic fields emitted by the turbines could have adverse effects on the well-being and productivity of livestock, posing risks to farmers and agricultural sustainability.

18. Insurance for Neighbouring Properties – The presence of a wind farm in close proximity to neighbouring properties could raise insurance concerns, with potential implications for property insurance premiums and coverage. The perceived risks associated with living near industrial infrastructure could lead to challenges in obtaining adequate insurance protection for homeowners and businesses in the area. Research suggest that we may need to go as far as overseas to find insurance that will cover our liability insurance.

19. Council Rates – The development of the wind farm could have implications for council rates, with potential changes in property valuations and tax assessments affecting residents and local businesses. The economic impact of the wind farm on property values and community well-being could influence council rates and municipal finances, requiring careful consideration by local authorities.

20. Lubricant and Oil Leakage – Lubricants and oils are essential for the proper functioning of wind turbine components, but if not handled and stored correctly, they can leak and contaminate the surrounding soil, water sources, and ecosystems. The toxic chemicals present in these substances can have long-lasting effects on the environment, including soil degradation, water pollution, and harm to plant and animal life.
In particular, the leakage of lubricants and oils can pose a serious risk to our local water sources, including rivers, streams, and groundwater reserves. Contamination of these vital resources could have far-reaching consequences for both the environment and the health of our community members who rely on clean water for drinking, agriculture, and livestock.

It is essential that robust measures are put in place to prevent, detect, and address any instances of lubricant and oil leakage from wind turbines. Regular maintenance, monitoring, and spill response protocols should be implemented to minimize the risk of environmental contamination and ensure the safe operation of the turbines.

21. Turbine Ownership - The uncertainty surrounding the ownership of wind turbines and the possibility of turbine owners selling to overseas interests raise questions about the long-term implications for our community. Foreign ownership could result in decisions that prioritize profits over local interests, potentially leading to a lack of transparency and accountability in the management of these energy assets.

In light of these grave concerns, I urge the relevant authorities and project developers to reconsider the proposed wind farm development and engage in meaningful dialogue with the local community to address the multifaceted issues raised. It is imperative that all environmental, social, economic, and health impacts are thoroughly assessed and mitigated to protect the well-being of our community, environment, and livelihoods.

I implore you to prioritize the preservation of our natural heritage, the sustainability of our farming practices, and the health and well-being of our community members and working animals. Together, we can work towards sustainable solutions that uphold the values and integrity of our community for generations to come. We also warmly invite you to our home and property for you to gain more insight of our concerns and hear heartfelt

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. I trust that you will consider the concerns raised by concerned residents like myself and take the necessary actions to safeguard our community and environment.

Regards,

Brad and Ash Rae