

# CLAYTONS' MEDIA RELEASE

(The release you have when you aren't really having a release)

The Department issued a media release dated December 10, 2018 regarding the stoppage of works of the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (CRWF).

Works stopped on December 6, fairly close to the time when contractors would take their traditional Christmas/New Year break which would mean that no workers are on site and the gates are locked. Is this so?

Why did it take so long?

The Department tells us that the Compliance unit made four (4) visits to the CRWF site with the earliest being on August 16, 2018. These compliance reports will make interesting reading when they become available (voluntarily or via GIPA) at some stage in the future. **Why was it left to the public to identify to the Department that significant compliance breaches had occurred?**

The Application advises that construction commenced on August 2, 2018 and the Company wind farm website advises that construction commenced on or before May 28, 2018.

The conditions of consent require CWP Renewables to advise the Department of pending construction commencement. We do not yet know this date and are yet to see the documentation. Whatever the dates, the DPE has known, or should reasonably have known, for many months that CWP was in breach of the conditions of consent well before construction was actually halted.

The DPE web site for this media release has an attached illustration of an unknown, completed, operating wind farm. Why do they mislead? Surely the Department had many relevant photographs from the 4 previous compliance visits made between August 16, 2018 and October 28, 2018 that have a semblance of relevance to the project. We are led to believe from the CRWF web site images that heavy equipment was on site.

The media release tells a good tale, as far as it goes. There are many questions unanswered. To some of the locals, a consent breach of greater importance, the illegal clearing of Aarons Pass Road (APR), continues to be downplayed. The media release reads as if a compliant CWP obligingly stopped work and this modification for larger turbine blades will clear it all up – not the case.

This breach merited a media release in its own right, but neither CWP nor the Department appears to have the appetite to admit it was a breach.

To an outsider, it could seem that the Department has gone out of its way to bury this breach, even to the point of saying there was no breach at all, to the applause of the Developer. A seemingly pro-developer stance from this Department is nothing new, and has been documented on numerous occasions.

It could be construed that Marcus Ray has been misled by those below him who draft his letters when he claims that the clearing of APR to date is within the allowable limits. As a flow-on, the community may have been misled. Clarification from Mr Ray to the public is required.

The Department would be wise to come clean on the APR fiasco. The facts will eventually come out. In the meantime any modification to the existing APR conditions of consent should be rejected.

(From the media release, I find Mike Young's new title, "*Executive Director, Resource Assessments and Compliance*", interesting. It implies that not only does he set the approval conditions, he gets to police them. His combined responsibilities within the Department should therefore reasonably have sniffed out these transgressions at a much earlier opportunity. Maybe they did but we have little to no evidence of that).