



870 Ophir Rd.
Summer Hill Ck.
www.cwecouncil.com

Major Planning Assessments
NSW Govt. Planning and Environment
December 18, 2018

Re: **Crudine Ridge Wind farm Mod 1: Reduction of turbines from 77 to 37 and a revised road design from Aaron's Pass Road**

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Central West Environment Council in support of the above modification.

The Central West Environment Council (acronym CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in Central West New South Wales, working to protect the environment for future generations.

CWEC supports the modification of the Crudine windfarm for the following reasons:

- The proponents have responded to growing efficiencies in wind turbine technology, which allows them to use less turbines within the same area, thereby causing less impact on the surrounding environment, and more opportunity for offsetting and bush restoration, which no doubt will be a condition of acceptance for the proposal.
- Wind energy projects, such as the one in question which are mindful of environmental issues and have community support are crucial if we are to meet both State and Federal renewable energy targets, and are to transition from our dependence on coal. This is particularly appropriate in the Mudgee district which is at present heavily dependent on coal for employment. Projects such as Crudine offer opportunities for such a transition.
- The proponents have obviously responded to community concern through seeking a revised road design for Aaron's Pass. CWEC assumes that a condition of consent will be that the proponent will contribute financially to any road modification that is required because
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- of windfarm truck movements. The fact that less turbines to be constructed will require less truck movements is an additional positive outcome of the proposal.
- The proposal implies that there has been concern expressed by local stakeholders about noise, visual amenity, impacts on biodiversity and heritage. A reduction in turbine numbers to less than half should go a long way to reducing the above concerns. As with many developments, proponents often seek to reverse prior decisions and attempt to make changes which were previously rejected. One of the conditions of consent needs to be that the proponent cannot seek a modification requiring additional turbines at a later date. Such a condition is necessary to provide certainty for local stakeholders, which is essential for public acceptance of the project.

CWEC supports the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Projects such as the Crudeine Ridge windfarm, and the willingness of its proponents to engage meaningfully with the stakeholders associated with the project are essential- if the transition is to be rapid and successful.

Yours sincerely
Nick King
Secretary, Central West Environment Council.