

PCU036532

Toby Martin & Belinda Ingram  
"Bodangora Station"  
1632 Cobbora Road  
Wellington NSW 2820

1st August 2012

Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001



**RE: Bodangora Wind Farm Application No MP10\_0157- Objection**

We, Toby Donald Martin & Belinda Ingram, wish to **object** to the proposal by Infigen Energy to construct a wind farm in the Bodangora area.

"Bodangora Station" is a direct neighbour to the proposed wind farm at Bodangora. "Bodangora Station" has been under the Martin family ownership since the late 1800's. The EA notes "Bodangora Station" as having a turbine located within 1km. The closest turbine is located on a neighbouring property which is a grazing only property who the host lives in another district.

We object for the following reasons:

1. **Lack of communication to the affected and neighbouring landholders in relation to the wind farm-** The first communications from Infigen Energy were in relation to the community open days in September 2011. It has now come to my attention that the host landholders who have entered into a lease with Infigen have been in negotiations since 2008! Yet we had no knowledge of this until September 2011. Unacceptable.
2. **Potential Land de-valuation-** "Bodangora Station" has been under the Martin family ownership since the late 1800's. In 2010 Toby and I undertook to purchase the property via succession planning within the Martin family. In May 2010 a valuation was completed by Herron Todd White which was used for the purchase of the property. At this time we were completely unaware of the proposed Infigen Energy wind farm project. Given that the price was negotiated with no knowledge of the proposed wind farm we are extremely concerned that any potential de-valuation could put us into a significant hardship scenario given that the bank holds full deeds to our property for the purchase.
3. **Errors within the subject EA related to "Bodangora Station"-** "Bodangora Station" is noted in the subject EA as an "associated landholder" and "involved landholder". We object to this statement and to date have not been able to get any response from any representative of Infigen Energy. I had emailed Frank Boland 19/06/2012 asking for an explanation to these terms to which he did not respond. Frank visited our residence on 20/06/2012 to discuss concerns we had in relation to the change of location to two turbines. We asked again for an explanation of the above terms "associated landholder" and "involved

landholder" to which he could not give us an explanation. At the public meeting dated 22/07/2012 I asked the question in the public forum Q & A time again to two representatives from Infigen. They were unable to answer this. A commitment was given to us at the meeting that they would contact us with an explanation. To date nothing has been received. Unacceptable and we wish to have this terminology removed from the subject EA.

4. **Visual Impact of proposed turbines-** The Wellington Valley is prime farming/grazing land. We both feel extremely blessed to be living in such a scenic location which we feel will be completely destroyed by the outlook of the proposed turbines. The height of the proposed turbines has been stated to be 150metres tall. It is our understanding that turbines of this height are much larger than existing developed wind farms which only adds to the visual ugliness of this proposal, something we will have to look at for generations. I ask the reader of this objection to consider how you would feel about having a wind farm located on your back door?
5. **Division within the local community-** This concern has been elevated significantly after attending the public meeting on 22/07/2012. I was shocked at the ignorance of the representatives of Infigen Energy on the day and the high levels of emotions displayed by both the concerned patrons as well as the landholders where the turbines will be located. Division with our close neighbours that will go on for generations to come is something that should not happen.
6. **Potential Health Impacts-** We have a young family with two children aged 3 and 18 months. We are concerned not only for the potential impacts of noise/infrasound pollution for ourselves working on the farm daily but mostly for our children. Noise/sleep disturbance/vertigo/depression and learning problems are all things that have come to our attention in researching the effects of wind turbines within a 5km radius.
7. **Lack of continuity on proposed location of nearest wind turbine-** The EA notes "Bodangora Station" as having a turbine located within 1km. Contact with Infigen Energy in September 2011 resulted in the nearest turbine being re-located to 4.6km which we received in writing from Infigen Energy. Subsequent emails from Frank Boland in June 2012 noted the closest turbine to be located, in his words, "about 4.2km". There seems to be no guarantee on where these turbines will actually be located which is extremely concerning.
8. **Noise Pollution both audible and infrasound-** We have been advised by Frank Boland that our property is directly downwind of the proposed wind farm and will be most effected by the prevailing winds out of all of our neighbours. It has been proven in past submissions that the data used by the energy companies on proposed audible/infrasound noise is in fact inaccurate so there is no comfort to us in the fact that we have been assured by Frank Boland that "we will not hear it at all". This is extremely concerning and after attending the public meeting and listening to relative speakers I think that the distance of turbines in relation to homes should be re-legislated to 10km. It should be noted that I would support the construction of any wind farm at the distance of 10km from the nearest dwelling.



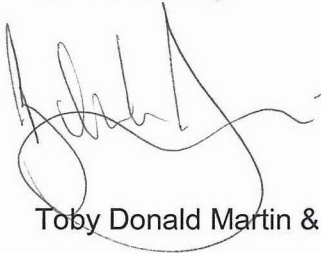
**9. Potential impacts to livestock on our property-** Our property is predominately beef cattle grazing to which , depending where on the property the livestock are located, will be exposed to 24/7 audible/infrasound exposure. Any developmental/weight gain/breeding impact problems will significantly affect our livelihood and is of great concern considering the animals will be located 24/7 inside the recommended 2km residential distance legislated by the NSW government.

**10. Removal of proposed wind turbines at the end of the subject lease period-** To my understanding there is no legally binding agreement from the developer as to the removal of these turbines. We have concerns as to what will happen if Infigen Energy enters liquidation or sell the wind farm to another energy provider or they become inoperable we will then be stuck with a horrible environmental mess to clean up to remove these turbines. Unfortunately it will be the next generation who will have to deal with this mess and the associated cost, something I fear the proposed hosts are overlooking due to the promise of their lease payments, for which are not covered by any form of security guarantee.

***We therefore petition the Department of Planning & Infrastructure to disallow and look forward to your department's favourable consideration of this submission.***

As per your departments requirements there have been no reportable political donations by either Toby Donald martin or Belinda Ingram made in the last two years.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a cursive script, likely belonging to Toby Donald Martin or Belinda Ingram.

Toby Donald Martin & Belinda Ingram