

Australian Industrial Wind Turbine Awareness Network

30th October 2014

Major Projects Applications

NSW Department of Planning and Environment

RE: Application Number - MP 10_1035 – Capital Wind Farm 2 - Modification 2

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to lodge an **objection** to the proposed modification of Capital Wind Farm 2 – Modification 2.

“Planning outcomes affect everyone in a community, which is why everyone should be involved.”

However the approval of wind farms in NSW to date has shown complete ignorance to this fact that is clearly stated by the NSW Department of Planning.

Rural communities in NSW have had heavy burdens placed on them by inappropriate siting of industrial wind turbine developments already, including the communities that reside around the existing Capital and Woodlawn IWTDs. To date the impacts placed on these communities have continually been suppressed by various means of denial, poor planning legislation and the lack of truly independent research, studies, monitoring and collecting of data among other things.

What is a very clear fact is that whilst the NSW Department of Planning and Infigen might profess that Capital and Woodlawn IWTD's comply with current noise legislation it is very clear that the noise and vibration emanating from the operation of the turbines at Capital and Woodlawn is causing a nuisance to residents surrounding these developments, the addition of Capital Wind Farm 2 of course will most likely add to those impacts.

The proposed modification to increase the blade length based on what is known already from existing reports and the diabolical situation at Macarthur Wind Farm in Victoria could and will most likely have even greater cumulative negative impacts on surrounding residents making conditions in the area more intolerable than already exists.

Infigen and Sonus state that they will comply with the Noise Criteria set out in the conditions of consent, however we know that in the past Noise Criteria in place is not adequate to protect the residents residing within the vicinity of industrial wind turbine developments in NSW, and as the size and dimensions of turbines and numbers grow this will become an even greater issue.

Of course there are many other issues surrounding industrial wind turbine developments that have never been adequately addressed by planning guidelines from the structural adequacies to the configuration of turbines and various other issues. It appears that the Department of Planning relies solely on developers adhering to the BCA and other Australian Standards without ever adequately policing developments for compliance until issues are raised.

In fact it appears that whatever the developers can get away with because of inadequate legislation and standards they will.

Infigen Energy in 2009 stated that:

“There is little doubt that in an ideal world locating wind farms in areas with lower population densities is desirable.”

“However, most were not viable in remote areas because of the high cost of connecting two lines and the electricity lost transmitting over long distances.”

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/george-in-a-spin-over-noisy-wind-power-x2026-20090920-fwsl.html>

Jonathan Upson from Infigen Energy has on more than one occasion also stated that they build to the department's requirements. In the context of the conversations where this has been raised it leaves one with the impression that Infigen will build to inadequate standards with no regard for communities because they are allowed to under the inadequate planning legislation, inadequate policing and standards in place.

From the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website

How planning should work!!!

Planning is an important activity because it is the way in which we all work together to make decisions about the types of communities we need and want.

It also involves making decisions about how land should be used, and what type of infrastructure is needed to support those uses as communities grow.

We plan for how land should be used and how infrastructure will be provided so we can achieve outcomes which best meet the needs of our communities, and which balance the competing priorities of all within our communities.

Planning outcomes affect everyone in a community, which is why everyone should be involved.

Planning work includes studies, research, talking to the community, mapping areas, making laws, changing laws, monitoring and collecting data, among many other things.

Based on information reports, data and information that has been supplied to the NSW Department of Planning and other government authorities over the last few years one would expect the NSW Department of Planning to be taking a 'Precautionary Approach' and show a 'Duty of Care' to the residents surrounding Industrial wind turbine developments and proposed industrial wind turbine developments in this state.

It would appear negligent if the NSW Department of Planning and Environment were to approve the Capital Wind Farm 2 – Modification 2 based on current knowledge, reports and experiences of impacted residents at existing industrial wind turbine developments, especially where blade sizes have increased on previous earlier developments.

Please Note: Attached Report – Low Frequency Noise from Large Turbines – Henrik Moller and Christian Sejer Pederson -2010.

Yours sincerely

Patina Schneider

On behalf of the Australian Industrial Wind Turbine Awareness Network