

## Objection to Capital 2, Modification 4

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Modification 4 should be rejected. The proliferation of Modifications indicates Infigen's attempt at development by stealth, gradually ratchetting up the harm played by its Capital 2 wind farm.

First they got it approved with 3 megawatt turbines and 57 metre blades. Then they got the power upgraded to 3.5 megawatts. Then the blades lengthened to 63 metres. No doubt there are further steps in their "boil the frog slowly" strategy.

Each step they take, further damages people in the vicinity, and each step they pretend is just a small step that makes no difference to what was previously agreed – but it does.

And each step they get agreed to, means more money for Infigen, enriching themselves at the expense of people living in this locality.

Modification 2 added more than 20% to the rotating area on each turbine. That makes a big difference. It makes a big difference to the visual impact on some properties. It makes a big difference to the noise and infrasound from the turbines. And it will make a big difference to the birds and bats that have to thread their way through the maze of turbines, not just of Capital 2 but also Capital 1 and Woodlawn – and no doubt eventually Capital 3 and beyond.

They claimed a 20% increase is visually no big deal and they present a couple of itty-bitty pictures to back that up. And they get some guy from Newcastle to claim it looks OK to him. The fact that what they present is so unlike what will be built tells you something. And what does Planning do? They get out their big rubber stamp and tell you everything is fine. Well it's not.

Have you noticed that wind turbines move but we keep being shown pictures where nothing moves? If they wanted to put up a block of apartments, that would be fine. But these are not buildings, they are designed to move and they do, and that makes a huge difference to the visual effect. Increasing the rotating area by 20% is not a small matter.

Then there is the noise. The area emitting noise will be 20% larger. And each time a longer blade passes the tower it will give off an even stronger infrasound pulse, to reach 15 or 20 kms away at serious strength and harm some people.

Some of the stories given to the Senate Committee about the effect of wind farms on people are appalling.

Have you noticed that while they claim the noise emitted will not be much worse, none of the noise modelling presented is for a 3.5 megawatt turbine with 63 metres blades, which is what they are planning? Most people would think that a bit suspect. But obviously not the Planning Department.

People around here are being hurt by the existing wind farms. The noise from Capital 2, added to the existing wind farms, will harm people even more. But under the boiling frog strategy, that doesn't matter.

And then there are the birds and bats which the government claims to be concerned about but not enough to actually protect them when someone stands to make a lot of money.

In addition, Capital 2 will create a wall of turbines along the lake shore and with the extra blade length there will be fewer gaps for them to get through. And if they do get through, then the poor buggers have to run the gauntlet of Capital 1 or Woodlawn – or vice versa, depending on which way they are going. Has the Department noticed that Lake George is now full? No previous study of avi-fauna for Capital 2 envisaged that.

This is a bad proposal. It is bad for people. It is bad for the environment. The only thing it is good for is making more money for Infigen. It should be allowed to lapse.