

To the Mayor and Councillors,

I seek your support to oppose the proposed project modification by CWP to Boco Rock Wind Farm Stage 2 (namely an increase in height of the turbines from 130m to 200m) and request Council and all Councillors make a submission to the Department of Land and Environment to that effect. As you would be aware, submissions to the Department are open until December 13th.

I wish to draw your attention to the systematic misrepresentation by the proponent of the impact of this size increase. With the benefit of hindsight, this intention is clear from the outset of the consultation process. The timeline below sets out his course of action, one premeditated to disguise the visual impact the modification would have.

June 2018: Mark Branson appears before Council to present proposed modification (32 turbines at 130m to become 20 turbines at 200m tall). I understand his appearance was unannounced. Images of the project are presented as a "wire frame" bearing no relation to landscape as humans understand it

July 2018: Initial mail out to the community. Size increase represented using a "not to scale" diagram, deliberately misrepresenting the difference in height.

July 2018: We request photo montage showing the visual impact on our property

August 2018: Following community protest, new "to scale" diagrams were created but the approved, not installed, turbines were shown as the comparison (which once again understated the increase in size as the developer has approval for turbines to 150m). After protest from a member of the Nimmitabel CCC, the images were amended to show installed vs proposed turbine.

CWP was requested to include some depiction of vegetation to provide a perspective, they misleadingly used a 30m tree, at least double the size of our local trees.

November 26th: Last date for members of the public to request to present to Council.

November 28: Modification application on Exhibition and submissions open. Closing date December 13th, not coincidentally, at the busiest time of year for most people.

November 30: We receive photomontage clearly showing the significantly increased visual impact made by the larger turbines. 13 days left to make a submission.

December 7th: Council meets

December 13th: Submissions close

In addition to his actions, the proponent has consistently, and repeatedly, verbally suggested the reduction in number of turbines compensates for the increased size in the context of visual impact. He has been fully aware this is not the case. The timeline of his actions demonstrates how he has deliberately obfuscated the landscape impacts and has successfully lulled our community into acquiescence through deception. I intend to notify the Ombudsman of his unscrupulous behaviour.

The proponent should not be allowed to modify the project to install these super turbines on the Monaro. It is worth bearing in mind that each generation of machine will be larger with machines over 300m in development. The huge proposed 200m turbines bring nothing extra to our region, no extra income, no additional employment, no greater community fund contributions. The proponent has approval to erect its 135m turbines but it is our duty to say "no" to the super turbines and deny developers open slather in our beautiful landscape.

Fiona Taylor

