

Submission regarding:-

Gullen Range Wind Farm – Section 75W Modification Application

Wind Turbines- KIA_02(DA) and KIA_01(DA)

With proximity to “K2” (Homestead)

This submission is written and lodged by Katrina Knight and Chris Knight. Katrina is the owner of Fernhill which is a farm situated on the Grabben Gullen Road between Crookwell and Grabben Gullen.

Fernhill has no wind turbines however does have two situated on the neighbouring property approximately 800 to 1100 metres from the Fernhill homestead.

The following is the information we have found so far are and do not agree with.

From the reports and information provided by The Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd, the two above mentioned wind turbines are situated no closer than approximately 1.9 to 2 km from any residence. This is based on findings in the Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd report dated 31 March 2014 to Mr Ben Bateman of GRWF. Page 12 shows a table where one of the two turbines on the fence line of Fernhill is stated as being 2001 metres from a residence at approval and then 1966 metres at construction. This is a negative of -35 metres and is closer to the residence. This turbine is known on maps as KIA_01(DA).

References from [0069605 Consistency Review_K1.pdf](#), [0069605 Consistency Review_K2.pdf](#), [0069605 Gullen Range Wind Farm Modification Application Report 31.03.14.pdf](#)

This turbine (KIA_01(DA)) is not the closest one to the residence of Fernhill and the closest one (KIA_02(DA)) to the residence is not mentioned at all anywhere in this report. It is unknown which residence the writer of the report (Allan Wyatt) is referring to. It is also confusing when reading the reports as to which turbine is being referred to as the naming conventions have been changed for KIA_1 and KIA_2.

Both of the turbines neighbouring Fernhill have been measured at being approximately 800 - 850 metres (KIA_02(DA)) and 1 km – 1.2km (KIA_01(DA)) This was measured using a vehicle and it was found that it was impossible to take a ‘Direct’ route from the residence to the turbines due to passing through gates and a slight zig zag pattern from the homestead back door. While this is an approximation it is still well and truly within the quoted distances in all reports from Goldwinds website. If a measurement was taken from the back door of the homestead on Fernhill and using a direct line drawn or “as the crow flies” finding, it would be less than that found by the vehicle measurement.

The “viewpoint” findings from Goldwind are in itself **misleading** as no mention at all is made of Fernhill. “Viewpoint K1” is made from Kialla Road side of the hill (opposite side to

Fernhill) and "Viewpoint K2" is taken from the Fernhill side of the hill but **does not** show the impact that can be viewed from the Fernhill homestead because photos have been taken from much further up the road towards Grabben Gullen.

Goldwind were not given permission to photograph from the homestead due to the impact of the intrusion to our elderly parents from strangers and as our mother is in poor physical and mental health is not capable of understand nor coping with the number of vehicles or strangers on the property.

The intrusion and impact of the turbines before the move and now with the move without Government approval can be found to be;

- Throughout the earlier application process by Epuron, we were informed that no turbines would be constructed near Fernhill. This is in writing by Epuron. Because Goldwing took over from Epuron, everything promised and written down by Epuron is invalid we have been told. Mr Ben Bateman has verbally informed Katrina Knight that if it is not on Goldwing letterhead, they "won't look at it". At no time were we asked permission for the turbines to be built so close to the farm and Homestead of Fernhill.
- Two wind turbines towering over the farm of Fernhill that appear to be right on the back door
- The health impacts of our elderly parents who wake up each morning able to view the turbines from their bedroom
- The impact of the percussion of the blades both in the day and especially at night when trying to sleep is already stressing our parents
- The impact of not being able to have fire assistance on Fernhill due to plane restrictions for firefighting. Planes are not allowed within the proximity of the turbines
- With the turbines being moved without permission, they are now higher than what the plans reflected and therefore are now more prominent from the homestead which lies north/west of the turbines
- Aerial view of the turbines does not show Fernhill or the homestead and how the impact would relate to Fernhill. Fernhill is just out of view of the wide view photo
- The aerial views do not appropriately reflect the 'approved' and 'final' positioning of the turbines. The move of 36 metres is up hill as mentioned in point 5 and promotes the visual impact and concern of being closer than expected
- The stress and impact placed on livestock that are to graze near to the turbines. This has led to further stress to both our parents and to Katrina.
- The impact already found of the land value decreasing substantially since the turbines have been installed

There should not be a modification application filed at all as the developer should have adhered to the approved project plan as set out originally. As tax payers, there should not be Wind Turbine Industrial sites at all with which our taxes are subsidising.

There should be an "Independent Public Inquiry" held as not only have the developers openly violated Project Approval but the Government Department should not have helped the developer benefit from it.

The Department has not been impartial as government departments should be by not preventing the developer's violation and also for not halting continuing construction until an investigation is completed and a resolution is found. The department has let the public down in these matters. Construction is still continuing illegally.

The department has also failed to halt operation of illegally operating turbines. The turbines that are not in the correct approved spots are now operating and illegally earning Renewable Energy Certificates.

The fact that the turbines have been constructed in the incorrect locations does not alleviate the primary fact that they pose a **substantial "Nuisance"** to the residence of Fernhill and also to those in the area affected by the other turbines both legally and illegally constructed by Goldwind. The impact of noise, the ruin of views, increased danger and risk of fire hazards, stress to livestock and negative effects to primary production, danger to local and migrating bird life and the decrease in value of our property has created a great deal of stress with both our parents and my wife who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and the negative health effects she is going through.

We make the following submission.

This developer should never have been allowed to relocate the vast majority of turbines in this development without Department of Planning approval.

We oppose the modification on these grounds – relocating turbines will have the following effects for local residents.

NOISE IMPACTS

Lack of rigour in noise assessment

Due to moving turbines closer to homes or in our case, to higher elevation, many residences will suffer from greater noise impacts not only from the individual turbine which has been moved but due to the cumulative effects of that turbine in relation to other turbines. Cumulative noise impacts have not been addressed in the modification documents. Only noise created by individual turbines has been modelled.

Increased Van der Berg effect from increased turbine elevation has not been assessed. To impose this increased, constant noise nuisance is unjust.

VISUAL IMPACTS

To relocate turbines closer to homes and at higher elevation, increases the visual impact of the turbines at many non-host residences such as us at Fernhill.

PROPERTY DEVALUATION

Due to increase in proximity to turbines, the greater noise/visual pollution will result in even greater devaluation of the effected properties.

LOSS OF AMENITY

The increase in noise and visual pollution drastically reduces residents' enjoyment of outdoor activities and rest at night.

LOSS OF INCOME

1. The increase in noise levels and shadow flicker effects can mean that some farmers will find it too dangerous to work in certain parts of their properties, reducing the amount of land from which income can be made.
2. For some farmers the ability to subdivide their property to gain additional income is lost due to the local Council's restrictions in regard to proximity to wind turbines.

MITIGATION

It may be considered that the relocation of turbines closer to dwellings could best be dealt with by the developer acquiring the effected properties.

As the effected property owners are NOT at fault here but have been put into an unenviable position by the developer, the Department of Planning should offer the property owner the right to decide if he/she wants to have their property bought by the developer OR

(a) Have the most offensive turbines removed/relocated

OR

(b) Gain other forms of compensation from the developer - financial or significant turbine curtailment (especially at night)

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY

Due to the developer's many breaches of compliance and the Department of Planning's inability to ensure that the developer complied with conditions of approval, we call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the processes involved in approving / monitoring this development.

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