

SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO MODIFICATION APPLICATION
07 0118 MOD1 GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM

I avail myself of the opportunity to lodge a further submission. I do so on behalf of the Crookwell District Landscape Guardians Inc.

The so called Gullen Range Wind Farm is the most inappropriately sited industrial wind turbine development yet approved in NSW. There are between 60 and 70 non related residences within 2kms of turbines, a significant number of residences have multiple turbines within 2kms. There are 118 non related residences within 3kms. This number may be greater because the original plans of the development are open to question.

The original EA for the Gullen Range development was a fundamentally flawed document. This EA contained an enormous amount of information, much of which was unsound, misleading, vague and demonstrably incorrect. The methodology used to arrive at “conclusions” was sometimes not explained and sections of this document were largely irrelevant. This EA was apparently assessed by DoPI officers who knew little about such developments or their ramifications but were overwhelmingly enthusiastic supporters of such.

Martin Poole, Epuron’s Director publicly stated that Epuron would buy anyone’s property who did not want to live near turbines. I was informed by Neville Osborne that Mr Poole then asked him how he (Poole) could renege on this offer. Mr Osborne apparently advised him and the offer was withdrawn in the local press.

I submit that DoPI officers involved in the approval of this development be prevented from involvement in the assessment of this retrospective Modification Application. If these officers had shown due diligence in assessing the Development Application, it would not have been approved - evidenced by the fact that the NSW Land and Environment Court recognised that the adverse effects on some residences would be so great that these properties would need to be acquired by the proponent or have offending turbines removed.

Predictions myself and others made in submissions opposing this development have now come to fruition.

A small number of property owners, some of whom don’t live on their properties, have caused their neighbours and people in this district to suffer the detrimental effects of property devaluation, their landscape destroyed, their rural amenity destroyed and this development will in time pose serious health problems for some living in the vicinity of this development.

Because of the population distribution in the vicinity of this development, it is almost impossible to relocate any turbine without moving it closer to a non related residence. Therefore, this relocation of 94.5% of turbines will impact on the local population. The Modification Application does not address this issue – movement of turbines other than those closest to a residence are not indicated.

This modification application does not take into account the cumulative impacts of turbine relocations in regard to : additional noise, additional visual pollution, additional environmental impacts, greater loss of rural amenity. This is indicative of the lack of rigour which has plagued this development process.

The DoPI should demand that the developer provide this information BEFORE any DoPI recommendations are determined.

Due to my experience with the DoPI over more than a decade I have no faith in its ability to make recommendations concerning this modification application. The fact that this development was approved initially and that there was no enforcement of compliance and still no enforcement of compliance is evidence of this.

No recommendation of this application should be made before an inquiry is held into this entire process which has resulted in what can only be described as a planning disaster of monumental proportions – one which was foreshadowed in submissions lodged before consent was granted.

This community deserves to know :

1. Why this developer is allowed to earn money from illegally sited turbines?
2. Who has signed off on the turbines now in operation?

Humphrey Price-Jones

Spokesperson Crookwell District Landscape Guardians Inc.