

*Submission re : Gullen Range Wind Farm Modification 07\_0118 MOD1*

I offer these comments in objection to the modification application.

This developer should never have been allowed to relocate the vast majority of turbines in this development ( 69 of 73 turbines) without Department of Planning approval.

This is a flagrant abuse of the Department of Planning processes and the rulings of the NSW Land and Environment Court.

To allow such vast changes to a project without significant penalties to the developer and significant recompense to landowners within 2 kms of turbines will send a message to ALL future developers that it is advisable to ignore conditions of consent if doing so provides higher financial returns.

In the majority of cases, the reason given for the relocation of turbines is to reduce wind shear and gain higher wind resource - ie improve profit margins. The impact on local residents was never considered by this developer.

I further oppose the modification on the following grounds :

1.To relocate turbines closer to homes and at higher elevation, OR only at higher elevations, increases the visual impact of the turbines at many non host residences. This is an unfair impost on these residents.

2. Cumulative noise impacts have not been addressed in the modification documents. Only noise created by individual turbines has been modelled. It is apparent that resiting turbines in **any way** will have impacts on the cumulative noise created.

**My parents have commissioned an independent acoustician to conduct noise monitoring (both audible and infrasound) and this shown that the developer's processes and results are lacking in rigour and accuracy.**

There has been NO independent government assessment of the noise monitoring/modelling done by the developer and provided to local residents.

In assessing this application, NSW government agencies MUST not simply accept the figures provided by the developer, but undertake independent noise monitoring. To do otherwise is simply indicating to developers that any information they provide will be regarded as accurate.

**In the case of this developer, it has been proven on many occasions that the information it has provided to the DoPI is inaccurate.**

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

Our family spent the majority of its leisure time in the garden. The noise which is currently evident is astounding and makes it impossible to enjoy our outdoor areas.

Ours is a working farm! The noise and shadow flicker already apparent in our top paddocks, makes it dangerous to work there.

4.The increase in noise indicated in the noise assessment commissioned by my parents will further reduce the value of the family property. This will be the case for many landowners.

5.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. This will be the case for property B12.

B12 will no longer be able to be subdivided. For some farmers, including my family, 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.

#### Considerations

(A) The Department of Planning and Infrastructure may find that the relocation of turbines closer to dwellings, or the extra potential cumulative noise from turbine resiting, could best be dealt with by the developer acquiring the effected properties.

As the effected property owners are the injured party, the Department of Planning should offer the property owner the right to choose 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)

(B) As this developer has breached its conditions of compliance on numerous occasions and as the Department of Planning has been unable to ensure that the developer complied with conditions of approval, I call for a public inquiry into the processes involved in approving / monitoring this development to provide the residents of NSW some form of assurance that their rights are respected.

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