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My Comments regarding the Request by AGL for an Extension to the Lapse Date of the Silverton Wind Farm Project.

As a long- time resident of Silverton, I am very concerned that AGL have applied for a five year extension to the lapse date of the Silverton Wind Farm Project. The project has been on-going for over eight years now and another five year extension would not be acceptable. AGL say in their request document that in their opinion, a five year extension would have minimal impact on the community. I would like AGL to explain how they arrived at that opinion. One business owner in Silverton has decided not to sell a property in Broken Hill and invest the proceeds in their Silverton business because of the uncertainty around the wind farm project. They are concerned that the project may affect business badly and they are also concerned about possible health issues, so have decided to keep the Broken Hill property in case they need to move from Silverton. Other residents and business owners are too worried to invest in their properties too, so AGL needs to speak to the community of Silverton, as it says it has done in February this year(no one has spoken to me about this), before it makes statements such as this.

It worries me that AGL will cause immense damage to the environment in the Barrier Ranges (the oldest mineralised ranges in the world) where the wind farm is proposed. This area is very fragile and any damage to the ground results in huge amounts of soil washing away during our heavy downpours of rain. The wind farm site is close to our water storage, Umberumberka Reservoir and this soil will result in a major siltation problem for the reservoir. It will also cause major erosion problems in the hills. Not enough investigation about these issues has been carried out.

I can't imagine how much damage is going to be inflicted on the beautiful Barrier Ranges in order to form flat areas for the huge concrete bases for the turbines. Blasting to make these level sites will destroy the hills I have been so fondly looking at for over 67 years and I'm sure blasting will cause erosion and siltation problems, not to mention destruction of endangered native flora and fauna.

Silverton is a historically important Village, being the place where BHP was formed and was the service centre for Broken Hill during its' early development. It is also where the Silverton Tramway Company was formed and this important piece of infrastructure helped put a lot of money into the NSW State Treasury for many years. Today, Silverton is a major tourist attraction, with people coming from all over the world to see where one of the richest mining industries in the world began. Silverton has been painstakingly preserved in an effort

to maintain the unique heritage status it has earned over many years and the Silverton Wind Farm Project stands to destroy this aspect of significant Australian History.

Silverton attracts well over 100,000 visitors per year and supports a number of tourist based businesses. It must be remembered that all of these people also visit Broken Hill and are vital to the region's survival. Without Silverton as a major attraction, Broken Hill will also suffer very badly. In light of the number of tourists who come to Silverton, more work needs to be done by AGL on its Traffic Management Plan. There is only one road leading to Silverton from Broken Hill and therefore the road needs to remain open and unobstructed by trucks and various other heavy vehicles to allow tourists a clear path. If this doesn't happen, Silverton businesses will suffer.

I would also like to mention that AGL failed to place a copy of the Request for an Extension to Lapse Date document on public display in Silverton and I was not notified by AGL that the document was on public display. I was notified by a member of our community who has computer access and received an email from AGL. This is not good enough on AGL's part. They need to update their contact details for all Silverton residents and make sure that everyone is contacted regarding meeting dates, minutes of CCC Meetings and important documents such as the one we are discussing now.

In conclusion, I would be happy if AGL would just go away and leave us alone, taking their wind farm with them.

Yours sincerely

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