

John Dynon
Dynon's Art Gallery
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28th August 2016

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the Modification 3 Report submitted by AGL in regard to the Silverton Wind Farm Project.

I have lodged submissions previously on this project, but no one seems to be listening to those of us who will have to live near this industrial mess. Even though AGL were only granted a two year extension on the project instead of the five it requested in the last modification, it still gives us residents and business owners no comfort. This project has been going for almost nine years and we have had enough. Now, AGL want to build 180m high turbines on the hills closest to Silverton. This cannot be allowed to happen. It will destroy Silverton and just should not be inflicted on the Silverton Community.

AGL makes the comment in its Mod 3 document that Silverton was chosen "because of its low population density area with limited residential dwellings". Does that mean that AGL considers just a few people don't mean enough to be concerned about them? That is just arrogant and totally lacking in empathy. The people of Silverton have worked long and hard to pay taxes and to keep this iconic, historically significant town alive. It is a thriving tourism hub and is not the right place for an industrial wind farm.

The residents of Silverton have consistently asked that the turbines be placed as far back in the hills of the Barrier Ranges as possible, but they will not compromise. There is just no discussion on this subject. I have been told that an alternative plan for the wind farm site has been lodged with the Department of Planning by one of the landholders in the area. The plan apparently places the turbines back in the hills, giving Silverton about an 8km buffer, with some cover from the hills lessening the impact of noise and the visual effects. I also understand that the project would be located closer to the switch yard, which you would think would be more cost effective for AGL and also that all four landholders on the site would get some turbines on their land, giving them an income from the proposal. The jobs AGL keep talking about would still be available and you would think everyone would be happy. I would support this version of the wind farm, but do not support it as it is now.

I have been an artist in Silverton for many years and this is where I make my living. This project has the potential to dramatically reduce tourism to Silverton and would destroy the

town as we know it. AGL seem to think that the wind farm will bring tourists to the area, but when you speak to tourist and ask them what they think, almost all of them are horrified that a wind farm could even be considered here. They come here to experience the outback, not see just another wind farm. I am interested to know how AGL work out how tourism will benefit from the wind farm in the Silverton area. They can't base it on other areas where they have built wind farms, because Silverton is unique in so many ways. What happens in one town will not necessarily happen in another. AGL should be required to do surveys with tourists to the area to see what they really think. Silverton relies on tourism for its survival, so a good survey over the busiest tourist season (more than one season) should be required.

There are so many problems with this proposal. Again, we have to consider water, or lack of it. No one can justify using water for the construction of this proposal, when we are still on water restrictions. People and livestock have to come first. AGL talk about accessing water from a pipeline from Stephens Creek reservoir to Umberumberka reservoir in the Mod. 3 report. To my knowledge, no such pipeline exists. Does this mean they are planning to build one? There is very little detail on this and so many other issues in this report, that I can't see how the Department can possibly make a determination on it. It certainly should not be approved.

John Dynon