

As a Canberran who regularly visits this beautiful area, I wish to lodge my objection to the Project because of the negative impact the proposed wind farm development will have on the lifestyle of the community, as well as the impact on local fauna and flora. I also question whether in depth investigation of other forms of renewable energy were considered for this area or whether agricultural, as opposed to predominantly residential, areas were also assessed by the relevant development stakeholders.

I am concerned that many residents of this area have made a choice to remove themselves from the urban lifestyle in favour of an idyllic existence within easy commuting distance to major centres. Over 20+ years, I have been an interested party to a friend's search for just such a lifestyle. Purchasing a property in Mount Fairy was the start of many years of hard work to develop a block of land into a dream sanctuary. Throughout the development of the property, which includes a home and well-planned infrastructure, much care has been taken to maintain and encourage native flora and fauna. This property is now an outstanding example of biodiversity, highlighting just what can be achieved by dedicated people. Over the years I have met many other local residents and have been impressed by their ability to commit to a lifestyle substantially different to that enjoyed by those of us who are content to remain in an urban environment. I also have much admiration for the wonderful sense of community that abounds in this rural haven.

I believe this ill-considered proposal will decimate the area, physically, visually and aurally. Residents will be stripped of their lifestyle choices, and possibly their good health, by a developer driven by profit, and who, community opinion has it, has failed to adequately consult with that community. As a visitor, I dread the thought that my sometime retreat may be taken from me by a field of gigantic monstrosities that will dominate the skyline for kilometres.

I am concerned for the welfare of local fauna, particularly migratory birds and bat colonies, if this development is approved, I would seek assurances (as opposed to lip service) that any developer will be forced to act in a responsible manner towards this vulnerable group. Similarly, preservation of the environment is of critical importance to communities facing wind farm development. What strategies would be employed to stop a developer selling up and walking away from a catastrophe?

I ask the PAC to closely monitor all proposals put forward by EPYC to ensure the validity of their statements. However I firmly believe it is vital that additional research be undertaken before this, or other, wind farm proposals are approved. Developers will be able to ride rough shod over rural communities in the matter of renewable energy unless the NSW government takes firm control.

As evidenced by other examples of the government 'leaping before looking', who will be left to take responsibility for poor decisions 5 or 10 years down the track?