

SUBMISSION OBJECTING TO THE JUPITER WIND FARM PROJECT

BACKGROUND

My property is listed as J413 within the EPYC EIS and has been assessed as being approx. 4.2km's to the nearest Wind Turbine Generator (WTG). I am deeply concerned, the passage of information to residents, by both EPYC and the Department of Planning & Environment has been appalling.

I am a participating member of the *Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project* (MCLRP) simply because they have taken the time to talk to me personally and I have been consulted and regularly informed at every level. If the Jupiter Project is such a great idea, as an affected Landowner and advocate for a Greener Community in order to leave as a positive legacy for our children, I am gobsmacked I have not been consulted at any level!!

Additionally, as a retired serviceman, who volunteered for service on several warlike operations in the Middle East, along with other ex-servicemen and women I am deeply offended by the lack of attention afforded to me from both the Department and EPYC knowing full well that my community and home, will be affected by this project and neither party have actively taken any time to dispel any fears I may have.

CONCERN

As a relatively new member of the Mulloon community, my first knowledge of the project and recent community meetings, have been provided solely from concerned neighbours and friends.

I am extremely disappointed by the Department of Planning and Environments response to myself concerning the lack of recent community information.

Nicole Brewster (Dept of Planning & Environment) response e-mail - *EPYC EIS & Mulloon Creek Bird Life* - dated 13Dec16, made a poor attempt to qualify information dissemination by the Department to geographically isolated landowners and at no stage address my concerns regarding the impact of Jupiter on the Mulloon Creek Bird Life and has therefore significantly added to my lack of faith in the Departments ability to represent the public.

BIRDLIFE

I am a participating member of the *Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project* (MCLRP). The project involves 17 landholders and covers an entire catchment of 23,000 hectares of land, including 40 km of creeks and tributaries including Mulloon, Reedy, Sandhills and Shiel Creeks. The project area forms a critical biodiversity corridor by connecting the Tallaganda National Park with the protected State Reserve of the Mid-Shoalhaven Water Catchment. In conjunction with the MCLRP work, I have provided access to my property to assist with studies of the Mulloon Creek riparian corridor. A bird study was conducted by Mr Damon Oliver (Senior Team Leader Ecosystems and Threatened Species, South East NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) in co-operation with the Mulloon Institute and adjacent Mulloon Creek landowners over 17 transacts with information provided back to all those who participated and other interested parties. Mr Oliver reported during his study (attached) that the below Rare and Threatened species of birds were observed.

Rare, declining species: White-winged Triller, Re-browed Finch, Eastern Yellow Robin, Dusky Woodswallow, Azure Kingfisher, Restless Flycatcher, Latham's Snipe.

Threatened Species: Diamond Firetail.

Mr Luke Peel, Mulloon Institute Research Co-ordinator, also wrote to participants on the 8/12/15 -

In summary, a total of 63 bird species were recorded at the 16 survey transects. There was one threatened species, the Diamond Firetail and seven rare or declining species – these are highlighted in yellow in the spreadsheet.

On average, each transect had 16 bird species and just over 60 birds per 2 hectares (400 m x 50 m) – this is quite an impressive result relative to other studies that I am aware of, and highlights the importance of riparian habitat for birds in modified/degraded landscapes.

I am confident that more species will be detected when I return in April/May 2016, including more threatened species such as the Scarlet and Flame Robin that are altitudinal migrants.

SCARLET ROBIN

A recent E-mail from the Mulloon Institutes Peter Hazell conveyed information the Mulloon catchment is within a priority area for the Scarlet Robin Save our Species program. The NSW Government, South East, Local Land Services are seeking:

Expression of Interest - Save Our Scarlet Robin Landholder Small Grants 2016/17 Local community action towards the recognition and protection of the Scarlet Robin and its' habitat.

EPYC's EIS does include the Scarlet Robin, however Annex H, Project-specific Impact Assessment and Mitigation (H13), states the species is not significant and therefore offers no mitigation measures.

Why are the Local Land Services, South East, offering grants up to \$10,000 to landholders in order to save a bird species, The Scarlet Robin, yet EPYC regard it as "not significant"?

I am deeply concerned EPYC, who in their latest newsletter under "Community Enhancement Fund" are attempting to influence public opinion by offers, and only offers, of improved mobile reception and they **"may"** be willing to contribute to sporting / school programs but pay no regard to assisting Local Land Services and therefore the community in saving an endangered bird species which they have also identified.

Jupiter EIS and Mulloon Research

*Jupiter Wind EIS - Appendix-D - Biodiversity Assessment Part 1 - Page 26 states;
Within their advice, OEH identified a number of 'subject species' that **could potentially occur** within the locality that should be considered within the impact assessment (refer to Table 3-3).*

Emphasis on "Could" instead of "do occur" in the area affected.

Cross-referencing the EIS against NSW OEH findings, they simply do not match, with the proponents information being noticeably inaccurate. If the species nominated within the project affected area were considered not to be an issue, why does the EIS not state this??

Mr Oliver's (South East NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) bird studies were conducted in November 2015 and July 2016 as part of the NSW OEH, in an area clearly identified by EPYC EIS as being affected.

*Jupiter Wind EIS - Appendix-D - Biodiversity Assessment Part 1 - Page 31.
Table 4.1 Database and mapping products reviewed, under search terms - "All bird records within a 10 km buffer to the PA."*

My property has been assessed as being with 4.2km's to the nearest WTG therefore by the Projects own definition the information gathered by the NSW OEH, who are also EPYC stated information source , should have been reviewed and had ample time (12months) to be included within their EIS. I am concerned the EPYC investigation into local bird life has been less than adequate and information within the EPYC EIS is inaccurate and misleading.

PHOTOMONTAGE

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report - Annex F - Table 4.3 Summary of Representative Viewpoints. Viewpoint No.15 has NO photomontage's available to provide adequate guidance on the visual impact the Jupiter Project will have in relation to my property. Am I expected to agree to something with no available information and only rely on the opinion of the developer? Page 91 States my property will experience "High Periods of View".

Two clusters of WTGs will be visible in the middle distance, partially blocked by the ridgeline. The turbines will be visible against the skyline and will be an obvious element within the landscape. Blade movement will be visible but the turbines will not dominate the field of view. The level of visual impact on individual properties in this location will depend on their orientation and level of screening vegetation present which may potentially reduce the level of visual impact experienced.

Is EPYC planning on providing the necessary screening vegetation, water, fertilizer and time to modify my property in order to reduce the visual impact, given the vegetation, is not required, if the project is rejected? Through no fault of my own, why should this financial penalty by my burden in order to reduce visual impact?

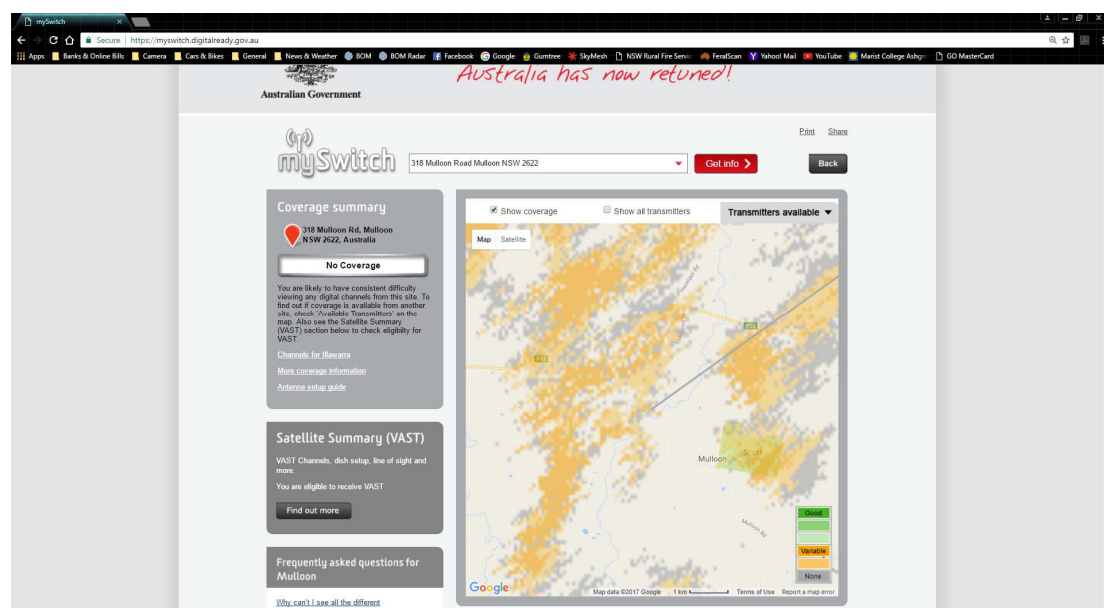
TELEVISION BROADCASTING

JUPITER WIND FARM EMI and EMF Assessment - Annex K - Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Assessment Report

:Wind turbine generators (WTGs) may cause interference to television broadcast signals."

According to the Australian Governments own website:

I am "likely to have consistent difficulty viewing any digital channels from this site".



Giving the geographical planning of the proposed wind farm and by both the Australian Governments and Jupiter's own admission, should the wind farm proceed I "MAY" experience

a greater interruption to the already sporadic free to air television reception. My concern is the conveyance of vital information in time of emergency. e.g. January 2017 Currandooley Bush Fire

I am deeply concerned EPYC, once again in their latest newsletter under "Community Enhancement Fund" are offering improved mobile reception and they "may" be willing to contribute to sporting / school programs but will do nothing to assist with free to air television which may be affected by the erection of Wind Turbines. City dwellers assume free to air TV is entertainment, I regard it as an important information source.

PROPERTY VALUE

The Department of Planning and Environment and EPYC have at no stage demonstrated, post wind farm installation, how my property value will be affected. Will it increase proportionally as if there is no wind farm?

How can large structures in a semi-rural district, with noise and visual impacts, have no effect on property value. I have never been consulted with respect to possible effect on property prices and cannot see, in any possible way the addition of 80+ wind turbines having a positive affect for the property prices of mine and that of my neighbours.

BUSHFIRE

In accordance with the Draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms (DoPI 2011) the assessment aims to demonstrate that the proposed Project will be designed, constructed and operated to minimise ignition risks, provide for asset protection consistent with relevant RFS design guidelines (PBP 2006 and Standards for Asset Protection) and provide for necessary emergency management. The objectives of this assessment are that:

- no human life is lost or person injured as a result of bushfire arising from the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project; and*
- infrastructure and property offsite is not significantly damaged from bushfire arising from the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.*

The recent Currandooley Fire started within the Capital Wind Farm, burning significantly large portions of land and the loss of one residence.

Aeronautical Impact Assessment Report - AERIAL AGRICULTURE AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

At the development stage, AAAA remains strongly opposed to all windfarms that are proposed to be built on agricultural land or land that is likely to be affected by bushfire. These areas are of critical safety importance to legitimate and legal low-level operations, such as those encountered during crop protection, pasture fertilisation or firebombing operations.

What will be the potential threat to my property with the increased overhead power line coverage and the reduction of air space for effective water bombing activities?

The extensive EIS and email extract (below) do not dispel any fears and demand more answers. The EIS has highlighted and delivered greater concerns. The proponent offers mitigations in order to reduce risk. In any risk plan, the preferred risk management strategy is "Avoidance" (eliminate, withdraw from or not become involved). The increased risk to my property demonstrated by the Currandooley example, is not an acceptable risk that I am prepared to accept and is being thrust upon me by the proponent who's house and land is not at risk. Avoidance, simply no Wind Farm!

Email: Hon. Pru Goward MP, Member for Goulburn - Sunday 5Feb17 - Inquiry into Currandooley Fire and Antecedent and Related Events

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Currandooley fire.

I have written to both the Attorney General and the Minister for Emergency Services outlining the community's concerns.

I am seeking a coronial inquiry in the absence of any other means of establishing a full, independent and transparent inquiry.

I understand there is a history of fires and bird deaths in the area that probably needs to be part of this inquiry.

I consider the matter to be urgent.

Thank you once again for contacting my office.

I will keep you updated with any response or outcome received.

Yours sincerely

*The Hon. Pru Goward MP
Member for Goulburn*

OBJECTIONS

The Jupiter Wind Farm proposal should be rejected for the following reasons:

- Lack of care with regards to endangered bird life.
- Failure of the Department of Planning & Environment to adequately consider property devaluation.
- Lack of communication by both the Department of Planning & Environment and EPYC
- Unacceptable visual impacts on both the landscape and individual residences
 - Proponents own admission my property will experience "high periods of view"
- Inadequacy of assessment procedures and criteria relating to visual impact.
 - NO photomontages depicting the effect on my property.
- The likelihood of property devaluation for myself and across the community.
- Increased disruptions to daily living (e.g. visual impact, free to air television interference)
- The increased risk of bushfire from the presence of a wind farm in a bushfire-prone area.
- Mental health deterioration as a result of all the above.

Regards

Antony Mulhall
318 Mulloon Road
MULLOON NSW 2622