

Objection to EPYC Pty Ltd - Jupiter Windfarm Project

“Annwyn” - J181

I wish to submit my objection to the subject Project because of the proposed windfarm's impact on my personal area as well as to my community in the vicinity of the proposed windfarm development.

The EIS described the proposed landscape for the Jupiter Industrial project as quote *“Farm land within the PA is predominantly used for commercial grazing with isolated lots used for personal cropping. Remnant bushland and more heavily vegetated areas, including the Tallaganda National Park are located adjacent to the southern boundary of the PA. A number of other protected National Parks and Nature Reserves are also located within approximately 3-5 km from the PA.”* Nowhere does it refer to:

- the increasing number of rural residential blocks in the PA.
- the affect on people living in the area, which has a particularly high number of impacted residents;
- the adverse affect on electricity security for the people of NSW;
- the contribution to increasing electricity prices caused by wind farms;
- the abysmal “consultation” by the proponent, which should preclude acceptance of any such project;
- the environmental impact, including on important environmental corridors.

My family's property “Annwyn”, referred to as “J181” by EPYC in its EIS, was purchased in December 2000. “Annwyn” is a small 25 acre parcel of rural residential land that is just over 1 km from the Goulburn/Braidwood Road. The Parish of Barnet had been subdivided into 100 and 25 acre rural blocks. These properties have been rated as Rural Residential by the Surveyor General's Department and local councils ie Tallaganda, Palerang and now Quenbeyan Palerang Regional Council issue their rates according to this designation. This is not land that is used for agricultural or commercial grazing that is open for developmental purposes.

My parent's searched for many years (7+ years in fact) to find a suitable piece of rural land that met all their requirements i.e. commutable distance to Canberra for work purposes, shopping in Goulburn and Canberra. The significant requirement however was that the land was virgin bush. Lot 4 Barnet Drive met those requirements. The “Annwyn” homestead is an owner-built home which took almost four years to build. The house was built to take advantage of the uninterrupted views of the Great Dividing Range, and the location site was also chosen to minimise the impact on the landscape and clearing of trees.

Commencing with a blank canvas afforded my parents time to plan and build invaluable infrastructure on the property. The planting of trees, rainwater collection, use of bore water, septic systems has all been thoroughly researched to ensure there is minimal

impact on the environment over time. Wherever possible, the infrastructure is hidden/disguised e.g. electricity and irrigation all subsurface. More than 300 trees have been planted on the property, many from tube stock and nurtured to self-sustaining trees. Many of the trees and shrubs planted are natives and specifically chosen to encourage bird life and provide habitat for other species as well such as lizards and frogs. Wildlife now abounds on the property where birds, never seen around previously, are now a common sighting and other native animals are quite comfortable to venture close to the main house. Every activity on the property factored in wildlife and the land. "Annwyn" is registered as an Australian member of the Wildlife Land Trust, a wildlife sanctuary system. The broad range of wildlife and habitats protected by "Annwyn" are of immense importance to the long-term conservation of biological diversity in our region, NSW and Australia as a whole and this importance is fully recognized through the Wildlife Land Trust Australia.

The "Annwyn" property is also a sanctuary for my family and I. It is an escape from the daily grind of living in a city and we enjoy the peace and quiet living that country living affords us. This however will change if the EPYC's industrial wind turbine development proceeds. The uninterrupted view of the Great Dividing Range will be lost. The peace and quiet will be lost, wildlife will suffer and the value of the property will be devalued. In EYPC's EIS, the impact of wind turbines on the Lot 4 property has been rated as "High;" and even after their mitigation strategy, is rated as "Moderate/High". The closest turbine is less than 2km from the residential property in direct view. A further 11 turbines are within a 2-3km range, another 8 in the 3-4km range and a further 8 in the 4-5km range.

I believe it is vital that additional research be undertaken before this, or other, wind farm proposals are approved. I believe the EPYC has consistently failed to provide accurate and factually correct information, provided false or misleading statements, failed to provide information when requested, and failed to adequately brief and consult with communities. These concerns have been expressed to the NSW Department of Planning on numerous occasions and I ask the PAC to closely monitor all proposals put forward by EPYC to ensure the validity and accuracy of their statements.

Finally, there is no compensation, monetary or otherwise, that EPYC or its consultants could offer to mitigate how any windfarm development would impact on my family, the environment, the land value and the wider Mt Fairy community. I implore the PAC, the NSW Department of Planning to reject EPYC's proposal in a rural residential zoned area.