

SUBMISSION ON JUPITER WIND FARM PROPOSAL

OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL

I am a resident of Roseview Estate. The property that my husband and I own is identified in the EIS at J10.

I strongly **object** to the Jupiter Wind Farm proposal. I believe the proponent has failed to meet a number of requirements of Environmental Assessment Requirements (EARs), some of which are set out below:

- Justification for the Proposed Location of the Project;
- Suitability of the project with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses, and land of significant scenic or visual value;
- Potential cumulative impacts due to other wind developments in the area;
- Noise and vibration Impacts;
- Incorrect information about school bus services in the area;
- Bushfire hazards;
- Failure to have a “comprehensive, detailed and genuine community consultation and engagement process.

Justification for the Location of the Project

The Project Area and the affected surrounding area is made up of several rural/residential subdivisions: Barnet, Roseview, Lakeview, Boro, Mulloon, Mt Fairy, Dog Rock Close, Duckfield and Bobbaduck Valley. It is stated in the EIS that there are 170 dwellings within 1-3km of a wind turbine, and 273 dwellings within 5km of a turbine.

At the public meeting in December 2016, Mike Young from the NSW Planning Department explained there are 62 homes within 2km of the proposed site, and 138 houses within 3km of it, and some will see the turbines from several sides of their properties. He also said that wind farm projects usually impact 20 homes.

The actual Project Area consists mainly of grazing land. The owners of most of the properties on which turbines will be located, live elsewhere. The northern section runs parallel to the Braidwood-Goulburn Road and is surrounded by rural/residential subdivisions. The southern section is also surrounded by residential properties.

It appears from the EIS that the large number of residences in and close to the Project Area is of no consequence to the proponents.

Suitability of the project with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses, and land of significant scenic or visual value

The proposed Jupiter Project Area is surrounded by a number of rural/residential subdivisions. Bobbaduck Valley is a new subdivision. The township of Tarago has the new subdivision of Sherwin Ridge. A new housing area is planned for Mt Fairy.

The Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan which was on exhibition by the NSW Planning Department has as one of its goals: "Sustainably manage growth opportunities arising from the ACT". Direction 1.1 is "Provide well-located and serviced land for housing in the Greater Capital to meet demand".

As can be seen by the number of current subdivisions and the growing number of new subdivisions around the Project Area, there is potential for further rural/residential development. The proposed Jupiter Project Area consists primarily of grazing properties, and the owners of most of those properties do not live on them. If the Jupiter wind farm is approved and constructed, these properties will not be able to be used for any other purpose than to house the wind farm for the life of the wind farm. Even if the owner of an associated property sells the property, it will still be tied up for the life of the wind farm.

I believe rural/residential housing will bring far more economical and social benefits to the local community than a wind farm.

The wind farm will deter future residential development in the area because the whole area will be recognised as an industrial area.

Potential Cumulative Impacts Due to Other Development in the Area

Bungendore Road, Kings Highway and Braidwood-Goulburn Road are well-travelled routes for people going to, or coming from, Tarago, Canberra, the South Coast, Nowra, Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Nerriga. Currently, the Capital and Woodlawn Wind Farms are prominent in the view along Bungendore Road.

In addition to the Capital and Woodlawn Wind Farms, there is Veolia's Woodlawn Bioreactor project not far from Tarago village, where Sydney's putrescible waste is dumped. Although it is claimed every effort is being made to ensure residents are not subjected to the stench from the project, the fact is that many residents do regularly have to put up with a putrid stench.

Along the Bungendore Road are placed the Capital and Woodlawn Wind Farms (already constructed), the Capital II Wind Farm (approved but not constructed), and a short distance to the west is the Woodlawn Bioreactor. The wind farms in particular have changed the landscape character along that road. Approval of the Jupiter wind farm will certainly degrade the character of the whole valley from Tarago to the Kings Highway and beyond.

This is almost certain to give the entire Tarago area a reputation as an industrial precinct. Approval of Jupiter is likely to lead to further industrial development in the area and destroy its rural/residential nature.

I do not want to live in an industrial area, and I expect potential buyers of rural/residential properties will find this whole region to be very unattractive.

If the Jupiter wind farm is approved, and we feel we cannot live here any longer because of it, we are very concerned that we will either be unable to sell our property or will have to sell it at a loss.

Noise and Vibration Impacts

The National Wind Farm Commissioner, Andrew Dyer, has said there is always noise from wind farms.

In its Information Paper: Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health, NHMRC, February 2015, the National Health and Medical Research Council has stated it is not possible to accurately predict wind farm noise.

The Council has not denied that wind farms cause detrimental health effects, just that they cannot find consistent evidence of this because of a shortage of research on this issue. They are currently funding further research into wind farm noise and its health effects.

In relation to noise modelling, DNV-GL explicitly states in the Executive Summary of Annex E, p. 2: "It has also been assumed that the noise emissions from the WTGs and substation do not contain tonal noise or any other special audible characteristics." Such an important factor should not just be "assumed".

Late in 2016, in a case before the Irish High Court, German wind turbine manufacturer, Enercon, conceded liability in noise nuisance in a claim pursued by 7 families whose livelihoods have been destroyed by incessant turbine generated low-frequency noise and infrasound. Would Enercon have conceded liability if they believed they could win the case? It could be that they did not want all the facts to be played out in the High Court as this would greatly damage the wind industry world-wide.

30+ turbines hubs will be at level with our home and within about 3km from our home. We are very concerned that we will be subjected to high levels of health risks from wind turbines.

Governments are unable to ensure wind farm operators do not breach noise requirements. Capital Wind Farm to the west of Roseview Estate has a noise complaint hotline and also has been forced to compensate residents for the excessive noise they have been subjected to. Department of Planning employees visited a resident who has been impacted by the Capital

Wind Farm, in order to assess the noise her property was subjected to by the wind farm. Consequently Infigen double glazed her windows. This does nothing to the impact when she and her family are outside of their home. Turbines do make noise and we cannot simply accept that we will not be affected by noise from the proposed Jupiter wind farm.

We are very concerned about the possible effects wind farm noise will have on us.

Incorrect Information about School Bus Services in the Area

The EARs require an assessment of the potential traffic impacts of the project on road network function, including the impact on school bus routes.

It is stated in Appendix H of the EIS that:

“A review of the public transport available in the vicinity of the site indicates that no public bus services run along Braidwood-Goulburn Road. However, a school bus service operates between Goulburn and Lake Bathurst.”

Twelve children currently live in Roseview Estate. The school bus stop is located just off the intersection of Braidwood-Goulburn Road and Roseview Road, and twice a day the bus either slows down (in a road with a 100km speed limit), or stops, in order to turn into Roseview Road to pick up and drop the children off.

Information about school bus services, and our concerns about this, were provided to EPYC at meetings between EPYC and Roseview residents on 2 occasions (16 October 2014 and 3 March 2016). From inquiries made by concerned parents from Roseview, we know there are 5 separate bus services operating in the proposed Jupiter wind farm area on Braidwood/Goulburn Road, 28 bus stops and around 150 children on these buses.

Bushfire Hazards

Fires are a particular worry for us, and the many voluntary RFS personnel who live in and near the Jupiter wind farm project area.

The ‘feasible’ mitigation of tree planting to block our view of turbines is a fire hazard, particularly as trees of 10+ metres need to be planted very close to our homes.

We have recently been in a situation where a wildfire has raged out of control and threatened to destroy ours and many other homes in the area. We were away from our home when the fire began and were prevented from returning for almost 2 days. Fortunately, our home and property were not harmed by this fire. The outcome of that fire would have been very different if it was not possible, due to 88 wind turbines 173m high, hampering the work of 13 aircraft flying over the area for 2 days and dropping water and fire retardant. The aircraft flew in airspace and at tree height and below.

In Appendix N of the EIS, it is stated that:

“Aerial firefighting operations will treat turbine towers similar to other tall obstacles. Pilots and Air Operations Managers will assess these risks as part of routine procedures. Wind turbines are not expected to pose unacceptable risks.

Aircraft would therefore not fly within close proximity to the wind farm in smoky conditions and the turbines are not considered to pose any increased risk to aerial firefighting capabilities.”

As we saw recently with the Currandooley fire, the wind farm will pose an increased risk to aerial firefighting capabilities.

It has been reported that fire investigators found that the cause of the Currandooley fire was a low-flying bird. “The fire started as a result of a bird flying close to high-voltage powerlines, igniting and landing in dry grass on the 17 January 2017”, the NSW RFS fire investigation report read.

This fire somehow started because of high-voltage powerlines which are part of wind farm infrastructure (Capital Wind Farm). If the fire did start in the way reported, it is because of the wind farm. It should not be possible for a bird to ignite simply by flying too close to wind farm infrastructure. I have heard reports that the Currandooley fire is not the only one in the area that has been caused by bird and wind farm infrastructure.

The 2 NSW MPs who represent the community affected by the proposed Jupiter wind farm (Pru Goward and John Barillaro) have requested that an inquiry be undertaken to determine the facts about the cause of the Currandooley fire. The local community believes this is necessary in order to prevent fires of this kind happening in the future.

Failure to have a “comprehensive, detailed and genuine community consultation and engagement process

My husband and I found out about the proposed Jupiter wind farm from a resident in the area, almost 2 years after the proponent sent out information packs and some fact sheets about wind farms to (some) residents in the area. By the time we learnt of the prospect of a wind farm, agreements with turbine host property owners had already been negotiated.

We, together with other residents of Roseview Estate, have met with EPYC representatives on 2 occasions.

At a meeting on 16 October 2014, we were told they were visiting us because it was part of the process for developing a wind farm project, and that they want to understand our concerns and alleviate them, and understand where necessary to place the turbines. We raised many concerns, but were given very little information about the project. We also asked for regular updates about progress on the project. EPYC agreed to provide updates to a nominated Roseview representative on a monthly basis. None were forthcoming.

At another meeting on 3 March 2016, we asked if EPYC would consider making any changes to their project as a result of our consultation. They replied 'No'. The EIS has not addressed any of our concerns. Our concerns remain the same.

EPYC Newsletters and public information meetings have not been informative. Newsletters rarely gave any new information, and did not address our key concerns. Timelines provided for the development of the EIS were never met. Public information meetings organised by EPYC were not informative. The information we needed was not provided. We were constantly told we would have to wait for the EIS.

I am not sure what the purpose is for requiring a proponent undertake "comprehensive, detailed and genuine community consultation", or if there is certain outcome required from that consultation. EPYC's consultation definitely was not comprehensive and detailed. What I picked up from EPYC's consultation was only that they do not want us to object to the project, and no matter what our concerns are, they will keep on with their chosen design of the project.

EPYC did listen to our concerns, but did not alleviate any of them. They provided the least possible amount of detail about the project. What EPYC has given us is the offer to plant trees to block our view and put us in danger of bushfires, and small amounts of money in an attempt to entice us into agreeing to become 'associated' landowners and thereby stopping us from objecting to the Jupiter proposal.

I have been an observer at all but one CCC meeting because I wanted to understand as much as I could about the project. The community sought the desperately wanted information through the community representatives on the Jupiter CCC. EPYC was very reluctant to pass on any real information, and what information we did get through that process took a long time coming. We had to wait for the EIS.