



RE: Jupiter Wind Farm Project Application – Application Number SSD 13 6277

Attention: Executive Director - Resource Assessments & Business Systems.

I object to the Jupiter Wind Farm in any form as I do not believe EPYC Pty Ltd have the best interests of the local environment and the communities of Tarago, Lake Bathurst and Bungendore in mind when this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was put together and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning.

EPYC Pty Ltd has proposed the Jupiter wind farm for an area in the Southern Tablelands south of Tarago, NSW. The proposal is for 88 wind turbines, 173 metres high, spread out over an area of 5,000 hectares and spread over a distance of about 24 kms, north to south.

As I have spent many years campaigning against the dubious benefits of wind power, and the potential risks to humans and animals I continue to be amazed that new developments are still being proposed in areas that are populated at the levels of the Tarago/Bungendore area, and are environmentally sensitive.

There is a particularly high number of impacted residents and I understand from friends that I have in the area that consultation with these residents by the proponent has been abysmal. According to the EIS there are 140 dwellings within 3 km's. We know there are more than 250 residences within 5 km's and hundreds more not far beyond that distance. There are also large numbers of properties within those distances which have residence rights but have not yet been built on. Most of these people have chosen to live in natural and/or rural surroundings. Many have views they prize which are important to their lifestyle and worked hard all their lives and paid large amounts of money to be able to do this.

As the Lachlan Catchment Natural Resource Management Awards Primary Producer of the Year 2009, Conservation Farmer of the Year in 2011, winner of the National Carbon Cocky Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2011, member of the Lachlandcare Committee, and current Landcare Ambassador I am alarmed that a number of management and mitigation measures have been proposed that are not adequate, and fail to see how this project proposal has got as far as being on Public Exhibition when the impact on the environment, flora and fauna will be irreversible. No amount of 'management and mitigation' can replace what will be lost.

I have spent the majority of my life campaigning for revegetation of the landscape and preservation of remnant ecosystems in harmony with farming practices along with many other farmers, school children and community members around our country. To now approve an industrial development the size of the Jupiter proposal consisting of a further 88 turbines of 173 metres high, along with the



cumulative impacts of nearby proposals, some of which have already been built (Capital and Woodlawn), seems ludicrous given that it has the potential to destroy these critical ecosystems. These turbines are much bigger than the neighbouring turbines already constructed and there are now proposals with the NSW Department of Planning that include turbines up to 200 metres high. After approval, wind farms normally seek “modifications” to increase height, blade length and power and I expect this will also happen with the Jupiter WF application.

The proposed wind farm will have a substantial adverse impact on the natural environment and on fauna. There are many environmental problems with it. The Jupiter WF proposal interferes with several habitat corridors, i.e. corridors via which fauna have historically moved through the area, either heading towards the coast and back, or in other directions. These are critical to the lifecycle of those fauna. Setting aside another plot of land does nothing to offset the obstruction of a habitat corridor which basically destroys the corridor, or uses it to direct avifauna into turbines for their destruction.

The noise impact section of the EIS claims most of the hundreds of properties within 5 km's of the proposal will not suffer noise exceeding the Department's limits (which take little account of country quiet, especially at night). However background noise levels were only tested at 13 points, and for only one month of the year. This is not acceptable and testing needs to be more robust, with recent works by sound experts such as Steve Cooper taken into consideration. Additionally the EIS does not produce separate noise forecasts for night and day. It is the night time noise which is often most important since that is the period when people are trying to sleep and also the time when it is otherwise normally quietest.

Another major concern I have is that the locality has just experienced two major bushfires. One started near the site of the proposed Jupiter WF and burned out about 500 hectares. The other (Currandooley Fire) started on the Capital wind farm, travelled 12 km's to the east burning more than 3,000 hectares. It ravaged many properties, though destroyed only one house, before being stopped just on the edge of a substantial rural residential development area. In both cases aerial firefighting was crucial in protecting properties. As the Jupiter WF is so close to a large number of residences (with many residences being between parts of the wind farm and between operating wind farms), there is a real concern about the ability to utilise aerial firefighting to effectively protect residences, the people in the area and on-the-ground firefighters in that locality. It was also reported in the media that the staff of the Capital WF were sent home for their own safety. Why did these developments not have on site fire-fighting equipment that could have been quickly put into action to extinguish these fires before they spread?

The unprofessionalism of this document, the total disregard for the community and environment, and lack of consultation convinces me that EPYC Pty Ltd will not be able to put this project together and therefore should be rejected in its entirety.

John Charles Arnott

15th February 2017