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Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Submission for the Jupiter Windfarm Proposal reference SSD 13_6277

We request to submit this document at this time for the extended lodgement as members of the Tarago Bushfire Brigade we were both involved in the Currandooley/Mount Fairy fires in February 2017.

We thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on this Environmental Impact Statement as part of the Jupiter Windfarm Proposal Application.

We object to the proposal.

We request before the Application is approved that EPYC Ltd resolve the issues described below to the satisfaction of the community.

Below are the issues identified as arising from the proposal.

Height and efficiency of the proposed Wind Turbines

While we understand from a business point of view that the maximum height of the structures has been applied for in the application, we still do not understand, despite many enquiries, why these structures have been chosen for wind capture over other less visual options that are currently available in the world wind industry. In the EIS document there is a section on alternatives to the project however alternative wind capture devices have not been included only the choice of either do nothing, provide Wind power (green energy) or fossil fuel power.

Visual impact

With the maximum height of the structures being tip height of 173 the visual impact of these turbines will be clearly visible to many of the residents of our community within a 5km range. Whilst some people may enjoy the view of wind turbines, there will be many who don't. Our understanding is that minimal impact should be experienced by residents whereas the number and sheer size of these turbines will have a huge visual impact.

Lack of Information about Benefits Sharing and Community Funds stated in the EIS

The community has asked on several occasions both at the community meetings and the CCC meetings for details of the benefit sharing for those non-host property owners impacted by the windfarm and the Community fund but to no avail at this stage. Details of both of these must be made public for comment.

Bush Fire Fighting issues

Both of us are active members of the Tarago Bushfire Brigade and our brigade shed is located closer to the proposed Northern section of the Wind Farm than the Boro/Mt Fairy shed which is the official brigade for the area. We have concerns about the time that it would take the Lake George zone (of which Boro/Mt Fairy is a member) to be present on scene should a Wind Turbine Generator catch fire. Even though we understand that safety protocols are in place to stop the blade movement and therefore prevent flame throw, the area of the proposed Wind Farm is open paddocks and therefore grass fire is a big threat. Grass fires move hot and fast and the most effective attack is not from ground forces but from aerial attack using the Fire fighting planes and water bombing helicopters, with the wide blade span of these tall structures this will severely limit the use of aerial attack.

In Summary

While we personally support wind power as green energy, we as residents of this community, are deeply disappointed by the lack of consideration by the company (EPYC) on the visual impact of these immensely tall structures to our fellow residents especially those within closer than 5km proximity of the turbines.

We are concerned that those residents who are not hosts have not been granted/allocated/offered sufficient compensation for the impacts that will experience due to being adjacent or in the close proximity of these immensely tall structures.

We are also concerned that EPYC have not provided options for the wind capture despite suggestions from us, the community and the liaison committee that they seek alternate and less visual impacting and more energy efficient and cost effective options which are available now within the wind industry.

We are also deeply concerned that in the event of bush fire in the proposed windfarm, with the height and blade coverage of the structures, that the Rural Fire Services will be unable to use air attack from planes and helicopters for water bombing, which will severely limit the options available for preservation of life and protection of property.

We ask that your Department address all these issue when considering the Environmental Impact Statement for the Jupiter Wind Farm.



Neil Shepherd



Gillian Shepherd