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2 Slattery St,  
Rye Park NSW 2586  
27/11/2016

Department of Planning & Environment,  
Atten: Executive Director – Resource Assessments & Business Systems  
GPO Box 39,  
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

**RE: Bango Wind Farm Project Application**      SSD 6686

I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Bango Wind Farm Project Application.

I have been living in the Rye Park district for the past 25 years since my marriage in 1991. We have two children who have attended the Rye Park Primary School and are the fourth generation of the Veness family to do so. I have worked within the Boorowa Shire in the shearing industry for 13 years and have been travelling to work in Yass and now Murrumbateman to work for the past 14 years. I strongly oppose the development of the Bango Wind Farm Project as I feel that there are far too many factors that have not been fully investigated that will show light on the catastrophic impact of this development to our local area.

I have many concerns, but will document what I feel are the most relevant in my family's situation:

1. **Wind farm density in the community:** Our home is located on the eastern side of Rye Park, with the previous proposal from the Rye Park Wind Farm project and if this Bango Wind Farm should also proceed, our home will literally be **surrounded from both the east and the west**. This will have a major impact on our way of life and health.
2. **Community consultation/Attitude:** There has been minimal community consultation regarding this submission. Rye Park community already have been divided by the proposed Rye Park Wind farm. If this Bango Wind Farm is allowed to proceed the Rye Park community will be totally destroyed.
3. **Telecommunications** are also a major concern that I have. The Rye Park area already has limited accessibility to mobile phone, internet, television and UHF radio. We have had to spend approximately \$1200 on VAST television because the new "great & free" digital television transmission does not connect adequately to this area. We cannot have only a mobile phone as they too are limited to reception, so we still have to pay for the home phone so we can be contacted when at home. We have satellite internet because we do not receive the National Broadband Network in Rye Park. UHF radio works in some areas but not in others. We struggle along paying an absolute fortune to stay in tune with the outside world and if the proposed wind farm occurs this will have a major impact on our systems. The thousands of dollars that we have already spent and continue to spend on trying to be connected to the outside world will be in vain as we will be in an even worse situation than we are already. Why are we been treated like we are not important in any of this?



4. I have been an active member of the Rye Park Rural Fire Brigade for the past 20 years. The increase risk of being unable to protect our home, property and the Rye Park village from the West from possible wild fire is very frightening indeed. On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 as a fire burnt out of control in the proposed wind turbine development area, the support from water bomber aircraft to assist and control the fire was necessary. During the aerial water bombing witnesses by myself and fellow members of the Rye Park Rural Fire Brigade in May 2013. It is necessary for the aircraft to come approximately 30 to 40 metres above the fire zone in order to effectively deliver the fire retardant to effectively extinguish the fire. The terrain which the fire was burning was such that without the assistance of the aerial water bombing would have burnt considerably more property and imposing more risk to homes and livestock.

Under the NO-fly zone restrictions applied by CASA "A 500 m no-fly zone has been implemented around the operation turbines and local air operators will be notified." Given that the proposed height of a turbine is approximately 200 metres tall with an additional 500metres no fly zone, the use of aerial water bombers as a vital fire control measure will be valueless. At approximately 700metres above the fire, it would be impossible to deliver any fire retardant to the required fire location with any effect. The Civil Safety Authority (CASA) in regulation No. 157 (1988) states that fixed wing aircraft cannot fly 500m above wind turbines or within a 1.2km radius.

As a member of the Rye Park RFS, we are not trained nor equipped to fight an industrial wind turbine fire. RFS has safety regulations as to how close we can get to turbine fires due to the hazardous material involved.

So not only do the turbines restrict the ability to distinguish fires in the local range by air craft, reduce the communications from the local brigade through our UHF radios, but also restrict the ability for active ground units to attend and distinguish fires as they occur due to the hazardous materials involved and from the wind turbines themselves. In the event of fire possibly due to lightning strikes and the possible risk of fires ignited by the turbines, left to their own accord have the ability to grow and destroy many homes and livelihoods of the greater region. Who will be responsible for any damage incurred by such an event? How do we as volunteer fire fighters try and protect our community and ourselves when we physically can't get to the fire to put it out.

5. **Road access:** The sacrifice that we make for living in such a beautiful and peaceful place in Rye Park include having to travel to access most things including work, sporting activities and to attend any shop. My husband (who works in the shearing industry and drives a truck for his father's livestock & wool carrier business) and I are extremely concerned how the proposed traffic and transport assessment will impact our access to work. I travel 130km's a day to Murrumbateman to work along the Wargeila Road. I am concerned with estimated peak daily traffic volume that this road will experience. The possible road closures, increased traffic, the slower trip times, increased accident risk (more vehicles and drivers unfamiliar to this dirt road); damage to roads and subsequently damage to our vehicles are obvious impacts to not only our family but every family that uses those roads on a routine basis.
6. The **decrease in value of our family home and associated property.** We live the eastern side of the Rye Park village. Our only asset is our four bedroom home and attached 7 acres. Our family has lived in this home since 2002. We have extended and improved the home to be a comfortable home for our family of four. Local real estate agents have already identified



that there is a 40% decline in value of properties in our area due to the proposed wind farm development. Our plans for the future were to see our children complete their education and live on in this special place. If we are required to relocate due to the wind farm, how will we sell our existing property for enough capital to purchase another property? There would be such a reduced number of interested parties that would want to live between two wind farm developments. Would you buy a property in such location?

7. I am concerned that the health and well being of our family and the community that we live in is being compromised. There appears to be more than enough evidence that this is **not the case**. "A statement from the people living with the Waubra Wind Farm near Ballarat Victoria, 14 December 2011" confirms the concerns I have and document the adverse health events that have occurred since the operation of the wind turbines has started. The proposed wind turbines in the Bango Wind farm development are referenced as standing 200 metres high. The wind turbines in the Waubra Farm are only approximately 120 metres high. This concerns me even more. BIGGER turbines, LOADER noise, LARGER ground current, BIGGER electromagnetic radiation, BIGGER effect on the environment and those who live here.
8. **Environmental:** Associated earthworks with the construction of access roads and clearance areas that will totally destroy the native bush that exists in the proposed wind farm location. The de-vegetation of such areas will dramatically impact on the many native species of endangered birds (suberb parrot, wedge tailed eagles), bats, rare native orchids and the Southern Pygmy Perch. The Southern Pygmy Perch will be dramatically affected by erosion and associated runoff into the local streams. These are only a few of the many species and colonies of native flora and fauna which currently live in this beautiful, native and untouched environment but will be destroyed by the clearing of such land to make way for the wind turbines. I fear that proponents have not investigated the full environmental impact of this major industrial construction will have on this region. But maybe that was their intention.

In conclusion, there are many aspects of the Bango Wind Farm Development that I consider to be incorrect or require further investigation. These include: Wind farm density, Community consultation and attitudes, telecommunications, property at risk from bush fire, road access, decrease value of land, health & wellbeing of my family and of those in this area, environmental impact,

I pray that the Bango Wind Farm Development does not proceed as it will destroy not only the beautiful location that we live in, but also our hope and spirit. Without that there isn't much left.

Thank you for considering this submission. **I retain the right to submit further information.**

Regards,

Robyn Veness,  
2 Slattery St,  
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