

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

RE: Bango Wind Farm SSD 6686

Attention: Executive Director - Resource Assessments & Business Systems.

I believe the industrialisation of our rural landscapes with turbines dominating the surrounding countryside for tens of kilometres, and creeping into rural communities, is an issue that cannot be ignored. Our food and fibre industries are already under attack from coal seam gas, coal mines and low commodity prices. Our food security is not assured due to destruction of our food markets from countries with cheaper labour. The only thing that keeps some of us in country areas is the trade-off of living in a serene rural landscape, and to destroy this would be the last straw for many of the Boorowa and Rye Park farmers, just so a pocketful of them can earn a 'free' income.

I am concerned about the soil fertility decline with cement, roads, power lines and cables covering large areas that interconnect with the wider landscape, and the subsequent effect this will have on flora and fauna, as well as microbial life. I also wonder what the effect of these things will have on the watershed of the Boorowa River, which is also the catchment for the Boorowa township water supply, and the groundwater.

The impact on creatures from the air, from micro bats to wedge tailed eagles, would be significant and is not properly addressed in this document. There have been many reported deaths from existing nearby wind turbines along the Great Dividing Range.

Safety issues such as the fire risk, and the firefighting risk for local brigades, is also a concern. After being a member of the local volunteer Bush Fire Brigade for many years, and having seen how devastating and far reaching a bushfire could be, I would question the safety of all members, as well as residents and homes, if aerial support could not be counted on in modern bushfire fighting.

This proposal has total disregard for the historic, heritage and cultural places within the footprint of the turbines. The Cultural Heritage assessment on page 11 mentions the aboriginals were Wiradjuri and Ngunawal but only gives credence to the Ngunawal in the Yass area. Although Boorowa is recognised as being Wiradjuri it seems the Wiradjuri People have not been consulted as they are not listed as being contacted on pages 68 & 69 of this assessment. In addition Page 1 states fourteen localities have been found with Aboriginal objects, however 57 individual artefacts were found in those locations which indicate there will be an extremely high distribution of artefacts in the area.

As someone who is over retirement age I also have concerns about the devaluation of house and land prices in the area. It seems the Valuer General valuations show no deterioration of land values in existing wind development areas, however it needs to be remembered that these are based on unimproved values. It is the infrastructure, homes and aesthetics of a property that determines the value. A property that is in full view of wind turbines, suffers the effects of shadow flicker, can hear wind turbines, and is affected by infrasound will not have the same value as one that has none of these. Our property will have a clear view of these large structures to the south, even though I have estimated them to be 10kms away.

All of the above inflict long term damage on the social fabric of rural communities which interconnect in very different ways to urban communities. Long standing friendships, community associations, churches, schools and the well-being of our children all suffer when a process and proposal is so insensitive to the genuine concerns of the loves of the people who cherish this landscape.

I therefore request that serious consideration be given by the Department of Planning and Environment of the issues raised in this submission, and that the Department **do not allow approval** of this proposal.

Mr Michael Arnott.