



PCU068257

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Wednesday, 21st November 2016

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



Attention: Executive Director,
Resource Assessments and Business Systems

Dear Sir,

Re Bango Wind Industry Proposal SSD 6686

We oppose this development, details as follows:

We are the privileged owners and custodians of 'Everton', a valued homestead and property dating back to land grants approximately 1836, homestead approximately 1840, ownership is nearing 100 years, now spanning 5 generations. Our home and land face in all directions to naturally wooded hills and vegetation. This outlook is precious as we share the same vista with all who have lived here since the 1830's. It is devastating that this vista could be forever impaired by many, many imposing massive turbines – eastwards Trustpower Project, westward, Bango Project.

Visual Impact:

Every area of our holdings on the Wargeila Road will be exposed to the sight of 200m turbines, these will also be seen from all paddocks on the western side of the Rye Park – Dalton Road. We find turbine structures visually offensive and compromise the natural landscape. The potential exists for us to be surrounded by turbines in the east (Trustpower) and turbines in the west (CWP), every part of 'Everton' would be exposed to turbines. Regular evening aircraft (approximately 8.20pm) and recreational flights to Temora returning to Goulburn would necessitate turbine lights, hence compromising the night sky as well as daylight hours.

Turbines:

CWP plans to erect 122 turbines, 200m high, wing span approximately 70m. Turbines of this size have not been used in Australia as yet, consequently CWP¹ were not able to supply any details of test trials – efficiency, safety, noise etc., let alone results of tests in local areas. CWP emphatically states that the Company has NO responsibility whatsoever for the suitability, safety, efficiency etc. of these models regardless of the outcomes.

Footnote 1:

CWP Information Day, Boorowa Nov 3

S. Isherwood (with witnesses; names supplied if requested)

The onus/responsibility, according to CWP rests solely with the Department of Planning and Environment ie approval for the project automatically transfers all liability to this Department. We queried this three times at the November 3 CWP Information Day, CWP denies any responsibility, now or in the future.

We are aghast that such structures could be used in our local conditions without vigorous and extensive testing and that a government department, and not the proponent, would have full responsibility.

Environmental Issues:

Local roads – Wargeila and Tangmangaroo are at present totally inadequate to accommodate necessary machinery, trucks, transport etc. The drastic widening of roads would mean the removal of most, and in places, all trees and vegetation. We totally disagree with CWP's view that very little clearing would be needed. Tangmangaroo Road was regarded as having few areas requiring clearing for access. The trees and vegetation lost would have considerable effect on birdlife on both roads, especially the loss of aged trees which provide nesting opportunities.

The road disturbances and intrusive inroads for private access will result in a great deal of dust and potential roadside and paddock erosion.

Birdlife:

We are, and have been passionate bird watchers with actual recorded findings well over the 106 species identified by CWP. The removal of extensive native habitats cannot ensure the thriving and/or survival of many species. We cannot believe that birds eg. Superb Parrots will modify their flight paths to be spared from blade impacts. Wedge tailed eagles could well become endangered in our area.

Bushfires:

Summer December-February 2016 was most prominent in the Rye Park area for bushfires. The areas with repeated fires were on 'Hillview' and bordering 'Brooklands'. Both these areas are targeted for turbine clusters. These areas attract lightning strikes. Many issues abound with volunteer fire fighters most reluctant to work in turbine locations, realistically, these areas may not be attended by fire fighters.

Population Density:

The Bango project will expose 153² residences within a 5km radius to 200m turbines. CWP cited their most populated development involved 20 residences (in Snowtown SA). This clearly indicates that CWP experience does not exist to make an intelligent/informed analysis of the effects of such a development. There are many more residences just beyond the 5km circle.

Footnote 2:

Ref. Sonus Bango Wind Farm
S3958C8
May 2016 pages 40-44

We note that in NSW, many communities are facing totally unexpected health issues eg. Camden cancer clusters, RAAF chemical leakages into community soils and the well-known emissions from coal gas seam developments.

We have had many face to face accounts of ill health being attributed to wind turbines, we feel for ourselves that the community to be at risk from the visual, sound and hidden effects.

Human Response:

As previously mentioned, we find turbines to be visual pollution, a striking intrusion to natural settings. We ~~had~~^{are} experienced 'unsettled' feelings which cannot be scientifically supported. The turbines we have frequently observed seem to have no 'harmony' of movement, no synchronisation in the cluster, ones not operating create a feeling of 'what's wrong?' The functioning turbines do not follow a pattern as of wind, the whole scene emits feelings of agitation. We wonder how these feelings could impair cognitive thought and action. We spend a great deal of time outdoors ie. Farming activities as well as many hours gardening, we will never be free of turbines. We also note that this project would mean that our area would be in the position of 'the meat in the sandwich' with turbines to the east and west, certainly the only project of this kind.

Community Relationships:

The issue of wind turbines has deeply divided the community. Many 'anti' residents have been offered to be hosts, and like us, financial 'Neighbourhood' agreements, it is not a case of being left out of financial gains. Conflict is now emerging about the way funds received from proponents should be spent, to date there has been no decisions made. Community spirit is at a standstill and a sad situation.

We support many aspects of 'Green Energy', are hosts to solar panels and are mindful of personal and farming practices, however we cannot support the invasion and destruction of our environment by the introduction of massive, permanent wind turbines.

Yours sincerely,

Penny and Tony Bickford

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