

Submission to Stop the Proposed Rye Park Wind Farm

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12 May 2016

A Submission to STOP the Proposed Rye Park Wind Farm in the Southern Tablelands, New South Wales

I wish to present this submission to the Director General, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

I have included addition information in this submission to the original submission I submitted in October 2015. I reserve the right to submit further information at a future time.

My submission is to **STOP** the proposed Wind Farm development at Rye Park and Blakney Creek, New South Wales.

I consent that my name be made public for the purposed of this submission.

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**PLEASE advise me of my submission number. My email address is Pudmanlane7@gmail.com.
Thank you.**

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At a Public Meeting on the 10 June 2014, more than 90% of those in attendance voted **NO** to the construction of the Rye Park Wind Farm.

For more than six years, the project developer (EPURON now TRUSTPOWER - the company proposing the construction of the wind farm) did not provide public information about the proposed construction of a wind farm in Rye Park and Blakney Creek region. The communities of both villages were not made aware of the disruption to our rural way of life, the health issues, the environmental issues, the public safety issues, the social and community issues that the proposed construction of a wind farm in this region would have on our everyday lives.

It is only recently, at two public meetings held in the Rye Park Community Hall in May and June 2014, that some of these issues were identified by TRUSTPOWER. Four "wind test towers" were secretly erected at specific host locations along the length of the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge in 2011. The wind test towers are extremely difficult to see because they are very thin and tend to blend in with the view above the horizon. Therefore, unless you are specifically looking for these towers, they are all but invisible. However, there was NO public consultation or public announcement that 126 wind turbine towers would be erected along the length of the ridge at any time prior to May/June 2014.

I was not aware of; nor had been informed of the "Open House" day held in Rye Park in July 2012. I have not received any of the 9 letters send out by TRUSTPOWER to the local community. I have lived in the area for 34 years and my house on Pudman Lane, Blakney Creek was not identified on the original maps in TRUSTPOWER's EA though I am just over the 2 km boundary to the nearest proposed wind turbine.

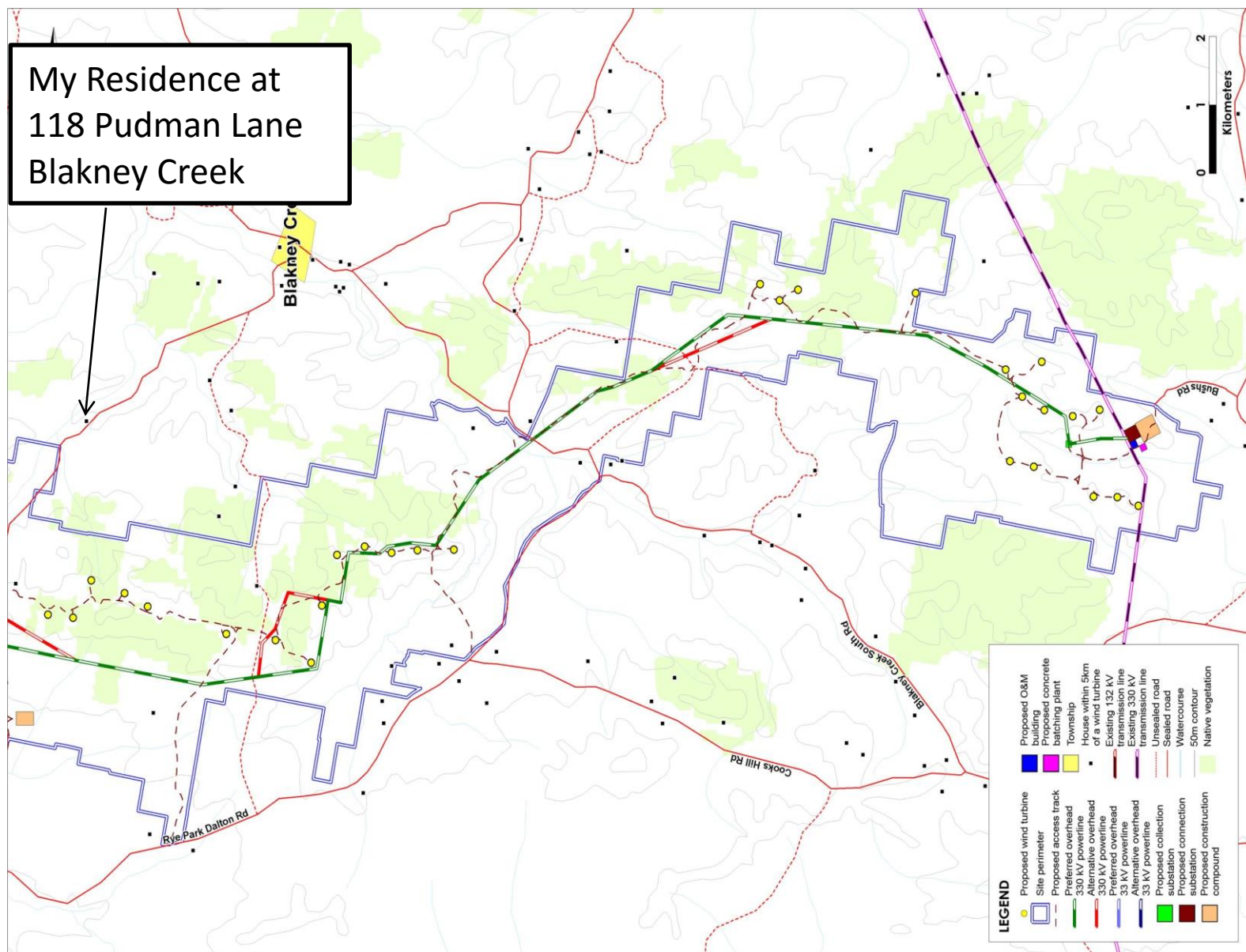
TRUSTPOWER says in its Development Application, which was submitted to three local councils (Boowora Council, Upper Lachlan Council, Yass Council) dated May 2016 (with later amendments)

together with information and maps attached to that submission for the proposed development of a wind farm at Rye Park, New South Wales, indicates that there will be 109 turbine towers (a variation from 129 previously proposed), each of which is in excess of 157 metres in height, will be constructed on the high point of the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge. The route of the proposed wind farm will stretch 38 Kilometres from the Kenny's Creek location in the west, to the eastern edge of the Blakney Creek village. The local community has not been informed of the exact location or the GPS reading for each of the proposed turbine towers along the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge though map references have been disclosed.

TRUSTPOWER have indicated (with small circles) the proposed location of the turbine towers on their Rye Park Wind Farm Layout maps – Project 71 – March 2013 – as part of their development application.

These maps and additional photographic visual representation of the turbine towers have been overlayed on a series of computer enhanced images which DO NOT truly represent the actual impact of the proposed wind farm on the community or the region. (PLEASE VIEW ATTACHED VIDEO – *"The Effects of EPURON's Wind Farm on Blakney Creek Ridge and Local Environment"*) (Video – Attached). This video was submitted with my original submission. Only the name of the wind farm company has changed from EPURON to TRUSTPOWER.

My Residence at
118 Pudman Lane
Blakney Creek



I question the need for the construction of the Rye Park Wind Farm? I am greatly concerned at the disruption to the local community and the environment that the proposed wind farm will have on my community. I question the need for a wind farm in my region to satisfy the power requirements of the Australian Capital Territory who aim to achieve a 90% renewable energy program by 2020. Why should my community be required to pay the price for the ACT to achieve this energy target? What will happen to the rural farm land and its value, what will happen to the rare and natural environmental considerations that belong to this region and what effects will be imposed upon the quality of life, the health and welfare of my community by the construction of this wind farm with its 126 towers generating noise and vibration 24 hours per day.

I settled at Blakney Creek more than 34 years ago for the peace and quiet that is associated with a small rural village community. I am loath to see it disrupted.

I submit the following statements:

1. Stop the Wind Farm on the grounds of an adverse impact on PUBLIC HEALTH;

- a. Though the AMA does not condone the erection of wind farms and has left open their conclusions as to whether wind farms constitute a THREAT to public health (see AMA conclusion at ABCD) there needs to be more research and greater public awareness of the dangers of wind turbine induced noise and vibration which could impact a local communities living on the fringes of wind farms.
- b. TRUSTPOWER's "Wind Farm - The Facts Sheet" – Wind Farms and Health, states that " . . . *There are no direct pathological effects from wind farms and that any potential impact on humans can be minimised by following existing planning guidelines*" This can be offset by their admission: "*It should be noted that this statement was made in 2010 . . . and that . . . The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is currently undertaking a more detailed review of the evidence.*" – This would indicate that TRUSTPOWER is not sure of the outcome and significance of effects of wind farm noise on public health and therefore represents a strong argument to CANCEL the proposed wind farm at Rye Park.
- c. TRUSTPOWER's "Wind Farm - The Facts Sheet" – Wind Farms and Health states "*A report released in May 2016 by the SA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) found that the level of infrasound from wind turbines is insignificant. "although only "sketchy and unreliable" decibel reading have been released by TRUSTPOWER on the likely noise levels that will affect the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge region.*
- d. The Rye Park Public School is within 2.6 Km of the proposed wind farm. Children's health and safety should be a major reason to STOP the construction of this proposed wind farm.
- e. The noise generated by the wind turbines and the infrasound effects that will flow from their operation will adversely affect my way of life because the rotating blades of the turbines will generate noise and vibration. These affects will greatly disturb the air pressure in my region with possible ramifications to my health. Studies done of other communities living with wind turbines in their immediate region indicate that 'headaches; sleep problems; night terrors or learning disabilities in children; ringing in the ears; mood problems; concentration and memory problems; issues with

equilibrium and dizziness and nausea have been reported'. I do not want to be subjected to these problems.

2. Stop the Wind Farm on the grounds of ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRUCTION and DEDRUGATION to the rural environment and local farming community

- a. The proposed wind farm would require considerable infrastructure to be built (roads, power lines, batching stations, buildings etc.). Soil disturbance will cause massive erosion and soils and sediment wash into the local creeks and rivers. The Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge is primarily composed of Shale and Silt Stone. This material will erode at a very rapid rate once disturbed will cause massive environmental problems to the local region.
- b. In the "State of the Environment Report – 2004 – Boowora – Native Species" on page 1 paragraph 2 the report states: Two plant and 16 vertebrate animal species that occur in the shire are listed as vulnerable or endangered in NSW and/or nationally. The number of species in the shire listed as nationally threatened remained unchanged since the end of the last reporting period, while the number of species listed as threatened in NSW increased by five. An additional 33 threatened plant and animal species are predicted to occur in the shire.

In the 10 years since this report, the number of endangered flora and fauna would not have changed greatly. The report goes on to list the following:

Table 3. Number of vertebrate animal species known to occur in Boorowa Shire.		
Animal group (Order)	Number of species	
	2004	2000
Mammals	22	6
Amphibians	8	6
Birds	119	53
Reptiles	13	4
Fish	-	-
Total	162	69

- c. The ridge, upon which the proposed wind farm is to be located, is populated by a number of paired Wedge Tailed Eagles which use the ridge as their hunting ground and predictable flight path.
- d. In the Blakney Creek region, a number of land holders have been directly involved in the preservation and regeneration of the Spotted Bell Frog Habitat project which was implemented by the National Landcare Organisation in 2011/2012. Funds were given to these land holders to fence off creeks and waterways on their property to preserve this endangered native species. The wind farm project will put in danger any restoration that has occurred since that time.
- e. The Swift Parrot, which migrates from Tasmania to the upper reaches of the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range, fly directly across the Rye Park/Blakney Creek ridge severely times each breeding season; an extract from the Australian Geographic

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2010/05/worlds-only-migratory-parrots-in-peril/> says: "World's only migratory parrots in peril – Two Australian parrots migrate annually over Bass Strait – a voyage that threatens their survival"(File 3 – Attached):

BOTH THE SWIFT PARROT and the [orange-bellied parrot](#) breed in Tasmania in the summer and then make their way across the treacherous waters of Bass Strait to spend winter on the mainland. Avoiding a chilly Tasmanian winter might seem like a good survival strategy, but it is fraught with danger. Along the way the birds must face the potential of bad weather blowing them off course, or, after arriving at their destination exhausted and starving, finding poor conditions and little food.



Swift Parrot (Photo: Chris Tzaros) [Gallery: Aussie birds](#)

Sadly, both species of parrot are counted amongst our most threatened birds. There are multiple challenges when trying to conserve migratory species as the habitats they rely on aren't confined to any one location. Migratory birds like these two parrots need good conditions not just in their places of origin and destination, but in all their stops along the way. In Tasmania, the [swift parrot](#) nests in mature, hollow-bearing trees that are in close proximity to their preferred food source — the blossom of eucalypts such as the Tasmanian blue gum. The trouble is, the flowering of the trees on which parrots rely is patchy — areas that produce profuse nectar in year may not do so for another five, forcing the parrots to move around even within their breeding range. On the mainland the swift parrot usually heads for the woodlands of the interior of Victoria and the southern half of New South Wales but, in years of drought when the trees don't flower, they are forced to keep on moving, sometimes so far north they cross the border into Queensland."

The other local bird populations, of which there are more than 30 species, all will be affected by the construction of the wind farm because it intersects their home range and environmental habitat.

3. Stop the Wind Farm on the grounds of its impact on PUBLIC SAFETY

- a. Aerial firefighting could not be guaranteed to assist with the reduction and extinction of bush fires on the heavily timbered ridge which stretches from the most Westerly environs of the Rye Park Village to the Eastern frontier of the Blakney Creek Village;
- b. The aircraft flight "Exclusion Zone" along the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge, which would come into effect if the proposed wind farm is constructed, will STOP aerial firefighting completely. This is because aircraft are not permitted within 3 kilometres of the turbine towers. Since the width of the heavily timbered ridge where the wind farm is proposed is from 2 kilometres to 8 kilometres wide (with the wind farm at its centre), aircraft will NOT be able to fly on either side of the ridge except for a very limited location near western sector of the Rye Park Village; this is because the aircraft will come within the bounds of the Exclusion Zone.

- c. TRUSTPOWER have indicated that they will build roads to service the wind farm. It is anticipated that there will be a huge number of vehicle movement on the Rye Park and Blakney Creek road infrastructure and the proposed new roads and tracks that TRUSTPOWER intends to build. This is most unacceptable to the Blakney Creek community which prides itself on being a quiet and restful community.
- d. TRUSTPOWER's roads and tracks in the Rye Park/Blakney Creek area are "at present", only preliminary plans that have been submitted to the Rye Park/Blakney Creek community which would assure the community that the loss of aerial firefighting in the area could be substituted by a road network that TRUSTPOWER proposes to establish. At present only minor tracks have been constructed or made to facilitate property owner's access to the higher parts of the ridge. The Rye Park and Blakney Creek local Bush Fire Brigades are extremely apprehensive that the loss of the Areal Fire Fighting resource, which is presently available should the need arise, would be lost for the life of the proposed wind farm.
- e. The proposed roads which TRUSTPOWER would build should the wind farm proposal proceed, would only service the top of the ridge and (presumably) a number of other access roads/tracks to facilitate the wind farm's construction. While these roads/tracks may assist the local bush fire brigades access only the top of the ridge, the loss of aerial firefighting facilities cannot justify the wind farm's construction.
- f. Should these proposed roads be constructed, who will supply the road base and gravel for their construction? Where will the water for the road construction come from? What predictions of "gully erosion" have been made on the regions where the wind farm is to be constructed? Who will mediate repairs if such damage occurs? Who will remain responsible for this infrastructure during the life of the wind farm? Who is to maintain these roads during the life of the wind farm? How many heavy vehicles will access these roads during the construction phase? What impact will these heavy vehicles have on the local feeder roads and on the local community road users who daily access these essential resources? At page 197-261 of TRUSTPOWER's EA it states that Traffic and Transport that 296 cars, truck and oversize loads per day on cooks Hill Road from Yass will impact the local roads during the construction phase of the proposed wind farm. I would suggest that this is an understatement of the actual traffic movement that would occur.
- g. Ancillary infrastructure including power lines, alternative overhead powerlines, and other structure and buildings are scheduled as necessary for the construction of the proposed wind farm. All of these additional building and road works/electricity transmission line works will adversely impact the local environment and the local community.
- h. There are 36 Dwellings that have been constructed in the timbered areas of the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge. All of these homes will be at RISK of bush fire damage if the proposed wind farm is permitted to proceed because aerial access will be denied.
- i. Safety concerns about the polluting effects of the vast quantity of hydraulic oil housed in the electrical generating component of the wind turbine are raised because the community is fearful of the devastating effects oil spillage could have on the local environment should leakage or component damage/failure occur.

4. Stop the Wind Farm on the grounds of VISUAL POLLUTION

- a. Wind Farm towers are in excess of 130 metres high. The wind turbine blades which sits atop these towers could extend a further 60 metres above the tower and will be rotating in excess of 300 kilometres per hour. The visual pollution which these towers will exert on the local environment will

be CATASTROPHIC, because of their closeness to the residential location of both communities at Rye Park and Blakney Creek. Almost all dwellings are within 2 kilometres or less of the towers and some are as close as 800 metres

- b. If the proposed wind farm turbines are more than 200 metres high and located approximately 301 metres apart along the total length of the ridge, the dominance of these structures will cause a visual pollution of the local environment which will CONTAMINATE the rural aspect of our villages and reduce DREMATICALLY the land values of our farming communities.
- c. The proposed wind farm development has already caused unrest and disquiet within the communities. Both Rye Park and Blakney Creek villages have been in existence for more than 125 years and there has never been such social unease as there is at present between those few who are advocating the construction of the wind farm and those who STRONGLY oppose the imposition of these unwanted structures in our rural environment.
- d. TRUSTPOWER have presented a number of photographic representations of the proposed wind farm's effect on the local environment. Please consider: Ref: Fig 9, Photo Sheet 3 – Photo coordination: Easting: 683685 Northing: 6167805. This photo was taken on Pudman Lane approximately 400 metres from my house. The photographer deliberately set out to deceive the true effect of the wind farm on the Rye Park/Blakney Creek Ridge at this point. (Please view the attached video of the actual height of the ridge, and the very short distance that it is to Pudman Lane and the valley floor).
- e. In the above photograph (Fig 9, Photo Sheet 3), the effects that wind turbine towers would have on the surrounding region have been deliberately framed to deceive the viewer of the actual impact that they will have on the surrounding region; because TRUSTPOWER's photographer has GROSSLY distorted the true effect of the visual pollution that the towers will have on this valley.
- f. TRUSTPOWER's photographer indicated to me at the public meeting in 2016, that he could not access public land and therefore had to work with what he had. What he had was very selective locations which did not show the true and actual impact of the ridge on the surrounding landscape.

5. Stop the Wind Farm on the grounds adverse effects on Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage considerations.

- a. Full consideration should be given to the local Aboriginal communities claims that they have not been consulted and that they are against the construction of any of the wind farms anywhere in Australia.
- b. Aboriginal settlement in the Rye Park/Blakney Creek region is well documented and at least four groups are known to have occupied the region over millennia.
- c. European Settlement has been in the region for almost 200 years. Blakney Creek was settled in 1836.
- d. Many Rye Park families have loved ones buried in the local cemetery. The effect of the Wind Farm will have detrimental effects on heritage and family commitment to the local area.

6. Other concerns

The Rye Park/Blakney Creek community is concerned that TRUSTPOWER will on-sell the wind farm to some other commercial company at a future date, should it be constructed. This could negate any contractual arrangement which have been made about the upkeep of the proposal and leave the local community to deal with any adverse effects.

Aboriginal – The Aboriginal community consultation process was not conducted in a broad and robust manner. The archaeologist engaged has made no attempt to become aware of the family/clan groups on the ground in the region. As evidenced by only two submissions from Aboriginal organisations one of which represents a separate Aboriginal Nation. The Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) and Buranya Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) were not contacted in relation to this report. The local newspaper (Yass Tribune) should not have qualified as the official notice to register interest in the assessment of the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm. Cultural and Heritage Assessment Report totally ignored the continuous living history of Queen Caroline's peoples. There has been no due diligence on Native Title issues under the Act (Commonwealth) 1992 and or Common Law Native Title, as required by law.

Air Strips - No fly zones around the towers and setbacks for safety for the planes. We have an air strip within 2kms and have been told we will not be able to use it. In the EA it says that it will be safe to spray weeds 500m from the tower. Pilot will not fly within 5km of the turbines because they are deemed unsafe to be near because of all the wind turbulence they generate. There will be great risk to light aircraft used in rural areas to spray crops. Farmer will require the turbines to be shut down when aircraft are required for spreading fertiliser or fighting fires? There will be significant interference to navigable airspace and air navigation in the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region if these turbine as constructed.

Bush Fire - We are concerned for the increased risk to people, livestock, and property through bushfire due to hazardous material from wind turbines. We are concerned that any fire in the vicinity of the wind farm will reduce the ability for the fire to be fought using water bombing aircraft confirmed on 24 June 2014 at the Public Open display held at Rye Park Hall, that in the event of turbine is alight, there is no external method of extinguishing the blaze. The combination of height, oils and a potentially spinning blade ensures external firefighting methods are redundant. With an aviation ban of 5 kilometres from each turbine, (Yass Tribune, July 2 2014) my concern is that in the event of a bush fire, water bombing would not occur which is necessary for the safety of ground crew firefighting.

The local Rural Fire Service have indicated that they will not provide ground crews without aerial support. How can TrustPower ensure safety of livestock, property and residents if a bush or grass fire occurs near their turbines Wind farms and their supporting infrastructure are a hazard to air navigation. I assemble ultralight aircraft and intend to be flying into an airstrip on my farm, or into the airstrip next door, the proposed wind farm will be a massive hazard to my operations

Clearing - The proposed sites include virgin vegetation that has been untouched as long as local records exist. The native ecosystems that exist in this area cannot be destroyed without having an effect on the local environment.

Communications - The basic infrastructure within the Rye Park Community very basic and limited with many dirt roads, unpassable roads, no mobile phone reception due to lack of service, no television reception due the new digital television implementation, and very limited waste management facilities and water and sewerage facilities. The lack of infrastructure will not support the large machinery and trucks, equipment and increase in the overall population of the Rye Park Community. It is anticipated that there will be interference to Digital TV, Mobile Phone and Radio communications?

Decommissioning - Will the turbine concrete footings be removed during decommissioning? How will turbine blades be disposed of when decommissioned?

Double Standards – The ACT government is buying NSW green power. It is anticipated that the Rye Park Wind Farm will be part of that arrangement. The site of the turbines has changed on numerous

maps over the years. Energy generated by local wind farms is not for local consumption but is destined for Canberra as the ACT government does not permit wind farms in the territory. The double-standards of the ACT Government is most disturbing to residents of the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region because of the ACT Governments aggressive wind and solar energy policies. No wind farms are planned for the ACT, yet they are happy to pollute the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region by sanctioning the erection of the Rye Park Wind Farm which may supply green energy to a two-faced government in the National Capital.

Electrical - Electrical energy must be dispersed into the ground using a system of metal strapping and earth rods to reduce the conductivity to less than 5 ohms. How will this arbitrary distance affect the electrical charge on rocky ground with shallow shale and top and subsoil as is the case in the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region. Even though it is not identified in the EA, the fact that it is stated that there must be a 60m easement along the powerline corridor indicates that the lines must be 330Kv lines. These lines must have an aerial earth-wire for each pole that is grounded at each structure. These 330Kv lines must cross over the top of the Moomba to Sydney underground natural gas pipeline between turbines which are effected by the introduction of these turbines. With the need to ground powerlines in close proximity to this gas pipeline there is real potential for a massive explosion if there is any fault in the shielding of this pipeline. A lightning strike would be even worse. The gas company is already investigating problems with the pipeline at the Cullerin Wind Farm near Gunning.

Gas and Ground Vibration - No mention of the main gas pipe line running through the middle of the site which will be affected. Main gas line Moomba to Sydney 34. Has APA been contacted. What about the natural fault lines? The extra weight of all the infrastructure and the vibration the heavy traffic during construction and from the blades will surely affect the gas pipeline.

Noise and Health Implications – The background noise above 20 dB/variations in day/night effects/sleep deprivation/ and the increased traffic on the road will also increase the likelihood of accidents. the local School bus picks up and drops off students at times similar to the start and finish of the works There is an accumulating body of evidence that turbines are producing adverse health effects for many residents living within the vicinity of wind farms. The issues revolve around effects of audible noise, vibration and flicker, and the effects of low frequency noise and infrasound. Other effects include sleep disturbance, annoyance and poor quality of life. Questions still remain as to the health impacts on livestock. As we are cattle breeders, we are concerned that the wind farm would have a similar impact on breeding of not only our cattle, but other livestock including horses, on our land. I am concerned about the health issues caused by the noise, vibrations, ultrasound emissions and, electricity leakages of the wind turbines. I have a pacemaker and am concerned the electromagnetic fields could affect people and animals.

Power Lines -The village population in Blakney Creek and Rye Park are extremely concerned about the impact the proposed power lines will have on their health and the health of their children and those who visit us over the next 20 years or more. These communities would never, by choice, buy a property with high voltage power lines running through their midst. The wind turbine and feeder cable structures could have an "adverse physical or electromagnetic effect on these communities.

Property Values It is expected that at least all properties in the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region will decrease in the value by 40% with the construction of the Wind Farm. This will have a significant

impact on all the farming communities. Many people will experience a large negative impacts on their property values due to proximity to wind farms. This will affect their livelihood and lifestyle.

Pollution - Safety concerns about the polluting effects of the vast quantities of oil and other hazardous materials housed in wind turbines should an accident or failures occur remains a major concern of the Blakney Creek and Rye Park residents.

Roads Earthworks/Dust/Explosives - The roads in the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region are not built for the heavy traffic expected during the construction of the Wind Farm., I believe that all roads will deteriorate quickly and that it will be unsafe for local road users. The unsealed sections of Cooks Hill Road and Rye Park Road will also deteriorate significantly and make it more difficult for local road users, increasing wear and tear on vehicles, for which we will carry the financial burden Access roads are noted as needing to be 5 – 6 metres wide, wider on bends. Some of the roads on the access route are only about 4 metres wide, which means all the old trees and remnant vegetation along these roads will need to be cleared to make way for the trucks and machinery.

There will be no local jobs long term from the project operations and the construction phase will not use local people or companies There isn't enough water in the summer to support the towns and maintenance grading of the roads! Where is all the concrete and road base material etc coming from? How much extra traffic will there be importing all of this material? The EA claims the turbines will require 16 X 16 X 2-metre-deep foundations which is appropriate in the best conditions ie basalt rock. The foundations may have to be 20 metres deep or more. This means the estimate in the EA of the concrete needed for the wind turbine foundations is most likely grossly inadequate/inaccurate. They may require 2, 3 or 400 000 tonnes of concrete instead of the 110 000 tonnes estimated – they may require more The ridgelines where turbines are proposed are not predominantly basalt rock as described in the EA but is sedimentary (mainly Ordovician) and is very prone to erosion.

Shadow Flicker - Shadow flicker and blade glint may well causes health problems, yet TrustPower is still putting the towers close enough to homes and villages to affect people and residents who live in the villages.

Tree Removal - As can be seen from the various photographs included in the DA the Rye Park to Blakney Creek – Yass corridor has sparse tree cover. The DA says 300 hectares of the site will be used for the wind farm infrastructure and also says 114 hectares of trees and other habitat will be removed – is it 114 hectares or 300 hectares.

Turbines and Potential Blade Throw. The recommends a 400m exclusion zone around there turbines is hardly enough if these machines are subject to failure. How many stock or people are in danger should this event occur?

Village Lifestyle in Blakney Creek and Rye Park will be disrupted with the ongoing noise from construction vehicles for 6 days of the week during the construction period. Additionally, Rye Park school children and Pre School (operating 2 days per week) will be subjected to the noise and vibration emanating from the huge number of turbines within 5kms of the School grounds. No studies have been released or assessed on effects on school populations The visual pollution which these towers will exert on the local environment will be DRAMATIC and CATISTROPHIC, because of their closeness to the residential location of both communities at Rye Park and Blakney Creek.

Weeds - Construction of the turbines will lead to runoff containing soil and seed from the hosts land. This may make its way into our creek and decrease the flow of the creek, due to increased sediment as well as potentially introducing weeds downstream. Land clearing for the wind turbines will result in weed disturbance, Scotch thistles and blackberries are the only noxious weeds noted in the EA (page 192). It fails to identify serrated tussock, St John's Wort, and Paterson's Curse all of which are declared in NSW under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and are rife on some of the proposed host's properties. how the company will stop dust from the roadway settling on village and residential and business roof's and then contaminating the water all the properties in the Blakney Creek and Rye Park region which is used for drinking, bathing, cooking and for stock. Land clearing for the wind turbines will result in weed disturbance everywhere in the region. The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 lists a large number of weeds which will be spread by this development. Scotch thistles and blackberries are the only noxious weeds noted in the EA (page 192). What will be done to prevent the spread of this highly invasive tussock-forming grass which is a serious weed in Australia (NSW Department of Primary industries)?

Wildlife/Flora and Fauna -. The wind farm will impact on sensitive areas that are host to the Superb Parrot, Wedge-Tail Eagle, Pygmy Perch, Yass Daisy to name only four significant fauna and flora of the area Southern Pygmy Perch, Superb Parrot, Swift Parrot, Wedge Tailed Eagle, Scarlet Robin, Eastern Bent Wing Bat and Box Gum Woodland. The application identified eleven vegetation types, four threatened flora species and one EEC were identified with potential for impact, nine species of threatened birds and three species of threatened micro bats were recorded during the surveys, along with the 99 different species of bird identified. Isn't this significant enough to warrant ceasing all development of the project. endangered Rosenberg's goanna was not recorded when environmental surveys. I know of 24 species of native orchid in the Rye Park area and more in the Bango Nature Reserve (National Parks and Wildlife Service) The endangered Southern Pygmy Perch live in the Blakney Creek and were reintroduced into the Pudman Creek, 200m downstream from its confluence with the Flakney Creek a number of years ago.

Water - Massive amounts of water will be needed, placing greater burden on already stretched water supplies in the area. Have permissions been sought and water licences been granted for getting water from Burrinjuck Dam. The application also mentions getting water from the Yass reservoir but have not yet got permission for this. How can it be considered to use an already stretched town water supply for a private development of this magnitude? Disruption of watercourses and other land management issues should be taken into consideration, as should the impact on local wildlife. To utilize very rare rich basalt farming country for wind farms is unacceptable.