

Planning Services

NSW Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

**RE: Rye Park Wind Farm Project Application – Application Number 10-0223**

**Attention: Executive Director, Resource Assessments & Business Systems.**

I object to this project on the following grounds.

Effect on the children at Rye Park Primary school.

As can be seen from the original EA the main focus appears to be fitting as many turbines as possible on the ridges. This has led to a cluster of 82 turbines within 10km and 26 within 5km east of the village of Rye Park, including the village primary school. This is now to be potentially combined with the proposed Bango wind turbines to the west of the village.

No mention is found in the Response to Submissions to even acknowledge that they may be doing harm to our children. Trustpower Response to Submissions states that the NHMRC reported that there is no evidence that wind farms cause medical problems. NHMRC actually states that *‘given the **poor quality of current direct evidence** and the concern expressed by some members of the community, high quality research into possible health effects of wind farms... is warranted.’* NHMRC Statement: Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health February 2015 NHMRC ref # EH57. This research should go one step further and investigate the specific effects on children’s brains of the cumulative effect of so many turbines in close proximity. Have this many industrial wind turbines been built in such close proximity to a school of any kind let alone a primary school?

Researchers, commissioned by Pacific Hydro and reported last year, took sound measurements near the company's Cape Bridgewater wind farm, in south-west Victoria. A correlation was recorded between the noise made by the turbine and the sensations felt by residents. It was the first time reactions like this had been included in a wind farm study. "What we found was that previously they were complaining about the noise, but it wasn't really the noise, it was sensations." Pacific Hydro external affairs executive manager Andrew Richards said it was not the company's role to contribute further reports about the noise made by wind turbines, including medical studies.

Dr Nina Piermont (2010)<sup>i</sup> states that “the presence of noise in the environment degraded how these children’s brains processed language sounds, which in turn degraded their ability to learn to read. It wasn’t that the noise just kept them from hearing things they needed to learn; the noise actually harmed their brain’s ability to process language”. She went on to state “over 90% of my sample of affected people, both adults and children had cognitive difficulties during wind turbine exposure—problems that lingered and resolved slowly after exposure ended. These included difficulties with reading, math, spelling, writing, multitasking in kitchen and home, remembering a series of errands, maintaining a train of thought in a telephone conversation, following the plot of a TV show, following recipes, and following directions to put together furniture.” Professor Arline Bronzaft (2011)<sup>ii</sup> states “based on our knowledge of the harmful effects of noise on children’s health and the growing body of evidence to suggest the potential harmful effects of industrial wind turbine noise, it is strongly urged that further studies be conducted on the impacts of industrial wind turbines on their health, as well as the health of their parents, before forging ahead in siting industrial wind turbines”.

I reserve the right to submit further submissions

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<sup>i</sup> Piermont N., (2010) PhD Keynote address before the “First International Symposium on the Global Wind Industry and Adverse Health Effects: Loss of Social Justice?” in Picton, Ontario, Canada, October 30.

<sup>ii</sup> Bronzaft , AL., (2011), *The Noise From Wind Turbines: Potential Adverse Impacts on Children’s Well-Being*, Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society 31(4) 291-295