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To Planning Department of NSW

RYE PARK WIND FARM

Letter of Support.

I am writing to express my opinion on what an excellent opportunity the Rye Park Wind Farm project (RPWF) is for the community of Rye Park and the greater southern tablelands region of NSW and how I give it my full support. By way of introduction, I have grown up in the central region of NSW, from a farming background, this continues today after four generations of working and living off the land. My wife and I live and work with our three children on our property which does lie within the Wind Farm Project area. Farming is our life, and I wish to see it continue.

I strongly believe that the RPWF will give us the ability to continue to manage our land the best way possible. The Wind turbines will not in any way detract our ability to manage our land; rather they will enhance it, through guaranteed income from annual lease payments.

I have been supportive of the project from its inception and whilst being involved in the negotiations between TrustPower and the land managers, it has only strengthened my thoughts that as a renewable energy project the RPWF yields a large number of environmental, social and economic benefits without any downside, some of which I have summarised below;

Social

With small rural communities already suffering the ongoing issue of our younger generation leaving in search of better career prospects, full credit should be given to innovative companies willing to come out to the rural regions to give our youth greater opportunities. Wind generation is one such industry that needs applauding.

With a daughter just about to finish school, her career options locally are very limited; I am fully supportive of these industries with their goals of prioritising local people for employment, long term commitment in maintaining a local presence and allowing the communities a sense of ownership in the successes the wind industry is credited for.

Another issue is local councils having to amalgamate due to some being deemed unviable; this does not bode well for the future of our smaller rural communities. The RPWF is one project that should have the full support from all levels of government due to its commitment to provide ongoing financial assistance through their community enhancement funds.

Economic

The RPWF is a major investment in the local Rye Park area and the greater Southern tablelands region.

We can all see the upfront economic benefits from the community funds, landholder lease payments and boosts to our local economy through employment, support of local businesses during construction and initial start-up. But it's the ongoing value to our local economy that I see is the real benefit. These are a 30 + 30 year lease agreement, that's a potential 60 years of ongoing financial support for our local community, bring it on I say.

Also, the RPWF will help support the diversity of the New South Wales energy mix and improve the robustness of the overall energy system. With talk from all levels of government wanting higher levels of their power usage catered for from a renewable source, the RPWF is perfectly situated to accommodate these needs.

Environment

I care for the environment, not only on how my management impacts the land, but how my decisions impact the greater landscape over time. I have fenced out remnant vegetation for the protection and enhancement of both the flora and fauna species. I have and will continue to plant tree corridors across my property to better improve wildlife foraging and breeding habitat but also provide economic benefits to my business through livestock shelters and pasture buffers.

All of this I can continue to do whilst the turbines are spinning, making clean green energy. I am happy for someone to explain to me another energy generating source that has as little impact to the environment with all of the other benefits.

In my opinion, the wind turbines will add value to the already strong environmental assets on my land.

They will not in any sense impact on my enjoyment of this region , rather I think they will become a symbol of achievement, a demonstration of a small community taking renewable energy generation and the impending issue of climate change seriously and deciding to act rather than just talk about it.

I can only hope that the outcome of this proposal will be something the Rye Park Community can celebrate, and that you for taking the time to read this.

Thank you

Yours faithfully,



20 / 06 / 2016

Christian Wythes