

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.

My reason for not wanting this project to go ahead is due to the diverse flora and fauna in the area. Knowing the length of the wind farm and how much land/trees that will be destroyed is reason enough to not want it to go ahead.

I look just in the property that I live of the native birds and animals that will have their lives either disrupted or destroyed with the removal of native bush land.

My primary reason is the Wedge Tailed Eagle. This bird is Australia's largest bird of prey. It is the top predator in our country's bird kingdom. It also plays a vital role in the reduction of the introduced rabbit, and also in helping maintain numbers of one of their native prey, Kangaroo's.

The hilltops /ridge lines that the proposed turbines intend to run along are key flight zones for these majestic birds. I have studied these birds for 20+ years closely and have seen a gradual increase in their numbers during this time. Prior to this there was a stigma amongst farmers that they were bad news, that they were responsible for lamb losses. This perception has changed over time and the birds have been allowed to recover. Also, with the introduction of a \$10,000 fine for anyone found shooting or trapping them has made people think twice.

I understand that Trustpower has indicated that they will not place turbines within 500mtrs of an eagle nest. The individuals that have decided this have obviously not studied this bird. The eagle's decision on where to nest is no different to us deciding where to put a house, with aspect, views, wind direction all being factors. These birds with their large wingspan have a set flight route when returning to their nests, the direction of the wind also plays a part in this as well, especially when leaving a nest. Having a turbine only 500mtrs away, especially on a windy day will really play havoc with this.

Also, in my observations, where there are current windfarms, such as Cullarin Range (Gunning), the eagles are no longer.

These birds were once considered to be on the brink of extinction. As a country, we have successfully been able to save them. Have a good look at this project, the expanse of the project and how it encompasses the habitat of the Wedge Tailed Eagle, even go to the extent of counting the pairs that have territories within the proposed area and you will see how many are going to be lost.

If we are to lose these magnificent birds the whole food chain will be disrupted.

Mark Grady

RYE PARK