

Jonathan Langfield
4067 Dalton Road
RYE PARK NSW 2586

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Director-General
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW, 2001

Dear Sir

Re: Rye Park Wind Farm Project Application

I am writing to make a submission in response to the Rye Park Wind Farm Project Application.

I am strongly opposed to this project for the following reasons:

Visual Impact

Our property will be approximately 3 kilometres from the closest turbines according to the maps. Looking at the map provided, should these turbines go ahead it will mean all you will see from our house (in both directions) on the Dalton Road will be these Wind Turbines.

These turbines will be 157 metres in height and there is absolutely nothing we can do to try and screen them from our property (existing gum trees which grow to an average of 20 metres in height will look like flowers in the paddock in comparison with these structures).

Unfortunately if this application goes ahead, the beautiful view we now enjoy will be destroyed.

My other concern with the visual impact these massive structures will have is that they will be a huge a distraction to drivers on the road. The road from the corner of Cooks Hill Road to our property is an absolute disgrace. We have to not only be vigilant with our driving on a gravel road which is corrugated and filled with pot holes, but also be ready for any kangaroos which jump out. At 157metre is height these turbines will dominate the landscape and cause an immediate distraction as soon as they come into view (particularly to people who do not live in the area and are not use to the road conditions and turbines).

Cumulative Impact

Consideration has to be given to the proposed adjoining Bango and Rugby Wind Farm Projects.

Should all these projects be successful the Rye Park, Yass, Dalton and Boorowa areas will be surrounded by hundreds of turbines.

This situation would result in our property being situated in the middle of both the Rye Park Wind Farm and the Bango Wind Farm – therefore we will be surrounded on both sides by these turbines (Rye Park on the front approximately 3kms from our house and Bango on the back side also approximately 3kms from our house).

Land Management

We are greatly concerned about the impact this Wind Farm will have on land in the area. New access roads will have to be built to access the turbines therefore disturbing the natural balance of the land. Water courses will be disrupted with the strong possibility that storms will cause erosion, therefore causing muddiness in dams and streams. New drainage systems may even divert water from existing catchments and stop stock water dams from filling.

Bushfire Management

The land surrounding parts of this Wind Farm is comprised of thick dense scrub. Should a bushfire break out it is not safe for fire trucks to go into these areas as they may get trapped by the fire. The safest alternative is to use water bombing aircraft.

Should these turbines go ahead, we will not be able to use these planes to water bomb and therefore be putting our fire fighters at grave danger and risk immense loss of property/stock should a bush fire break out.

Ecology

I do not believe reducing the amount of turbines to 109 will do anything to stop the damage to the ecology in the area.

Building access roads and clearing land for these turbines to be built will mean the removal of thousands of trees. This has a chain reaction as there are a number of animals who rely on this vegetation.

Also with 109 turbines operating in such a condensed area, how many birds will be innocently killed when they come into their path?

Damage to Local Roads

The Boorowa/Rye Park road is a country road not a highway and is in poor condition at the best of times. It is a narrow road with barely enough bitumen to allow two cars to pass each other let alone the massive machinery required to bring in these structures. The road is not strong enough to withstand the high amount of heavy machinery which will be required to get this wind farm operating.

Also as there are proposed turbines starting near the corner of Cooks Hill Road and Dalton Road, they will still have to use the Dalton Road to get them to the entry point. Nothing has changed from the previous submission in regards to this road, it is still narrow and in appalling condition.

Health Impacts

Whilst previous studies have indicated that there is no clear link between the Wind Turbines and health effects on residents living nearby to them, no studies have been carried out on turbines of this size.

With the entire area to be saturated with these turbines, and over 200 dwellings to be within 5 kilometres of them, surely more research has to be done before installing such a large number of turbines.

Property Values

As mentioned our property will have these turbines in plain sight as far as the eye can see. We have no doubt that should these turbines have already been erected when we were looking at buying a rural property, we would not even have considered this area and fully believe nor will any future prospective buyers. Therefore how can we expect that this project will not have a negative impact on the value of our property? It is not only our property at risk, it is over 200 dwellings in the area.

Summary

This is a beautiful bush area and it will be an absolute tragedy to destroy the landscape by such a massive amount of turbines. Should this application go ahead they will dominate the landscape, change the natural balance of the land and all the properties relying on it, destroy country roads, potentially effect the value of 200 dwellings, interfere with fire- fighting ability in the area and see the destruction of approximately 600 acres of prime timber country.