

**Grant and Linley Ryan**  
**“Hedgeroy”**  
**1712 Maybole Road**  
**Ben Lomond, NSW 2365**

**Submission for Proposed  
White Rock Wind Farm  
MP 10\_0160**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

“Hedgeroy” is a 565 ha property situated in the picturesque Maybole, Ben Lomond country. We are located 18km north of the township of Ben Lomond and 18km west of the New England Highway. We purchased Hedgeroy 9 years ago in 2002.

We would like to raise our concerns at the proposed White Rock wind farm and object to the construction of wind turbines within 2-3 kms of our residences.

We are certainly not against wind as a source of renewable energy but we do have some major concerns on the adverse effects that wind turbines may have on residents living within close proximity.

These concerns have been verified by the outcome of the Senate Enquiry dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011 and the committee’s recommendations.

Our areas of concern include:

- Consultation process
- Health Impact
- Noise & Vibration
- Visual Intrusion
- Land Values

Firstly, we have been totally mis-represented by the proponent “Epuron Pty Ltd” in their Environmental Assessment submission (White Rock Wind Farm, Epuron, April 2011, EA, page21). Our residence (labelled R21) wrongly states we are an *associated residence*. This is not only false but shows the lack of professional and meaningful consultation by the developers.

## **CONSULTATION**

Consultation between us and the proponent “Epuron Pty Ltd” has been limited at best. The only contact has been a short phone call that promised a personal visit to our property by the developer. We are still waiting 12 months on.

As previously mentioned we have been wrongly represented as an associated resident in Epuron Pty Ltd EA. This inaccuracy affects how our residence is depicted in certain figures and tables within the EA. For example, the predicted Wind farm noise and relevant criteria (Appendix F, Sonus Environmental Noise Assessment, December, 2010, pg 45) portrays that we are an associated residence and that we have agreed to take a higher criteria of 45 dB(A) wind noise level. We are **NOT** an associated resident, and we have never been consulted regarding the noise impact of wind farms.

## **HEALTH IMPACT**

When it comes to the health impact, one does not know where to start and finish our concerns.

As reported in the Senate Enquiry (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011) many residents and doctors have witnessed symptoms suffered by those living within close proximity to wind turbines.

An extract from a submission to the Federal Senate Enquiry, 10 February, 2011 by Dr Sarah Laurie (BMBS) states, “An immediate temporary halt in construction of wind turbines closer than 10km to human habitation until adequate research is completed, in order to determine what is a safe setback of turbines from homes and workplaces.”

The Senate Enquiry (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011) recommends that the “Commonwealth Government initiate as a matter of priority thorough, adequately resourced epidemiological and laboratory studies of the possible effects of wind farms on human health.” (Senate Enquiry, recommendation 4, 2.101).

## **NOISE/VIBRATION IMPACT**

Again there is much debate regarding the adverse health effects associated with noise and vibration of wind turbines. In particular low frequency noise has come to the forefront.

“In view of the reported cases of illness and the possible consequences that any adverse health effects may have on communities’ acceptance of wind farms the committee considers that soundly-based studies of these matters should be undertaken as a matter of priority.” (Senate Enquiry, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011, point 2.100)

The Senate Enquiry committee comments on the Noise and Adverse Health Effects, “suggestions, concerns and opinions expressed that infrasound produced by the turbines is a cause of adverse health symptoms similar to those described as ‘wind Turbine Syndrome’ by Dr Pierpont”. They go on to state that “there is insufficient rigorous research to know the answer.” (Senate Enquiry, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011, point 2.99, pg 27)

The committee from the Senate Enquiry recommends that the “National Acoustic Laboratories conduct a study and assessment of noise impacts of wind farms, including the impact of infrasound.” (Senate Enquiry, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011, Recommendation 6, point 2.103, pg 28).

Infrasound, according to acoustics consultant Mr William Huson and an official UK Advisory Group is definitely present.

The Senate Enquiry recommends that the “noise standards adopted by the States and Territories for the planning and operation of rural wind farms should include appropriate measures to calculate the impact of low frequency noise and vibrations indoors at impacted dwelling.” (Senate Enquiry, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011, Recommendation 1, point 2.44, pg 15).

## **VISUAL IMPACT**

The enormity of how big these wind turbines are is hard to imagine. 130 metre high constructions with 40 metre blades must have a detrimental effect on the natural landscape, one would think. The closest of the turbines is proposed to be just 1200 metres from our residence (turbine no. 117). To have 3 turbines within 1700metres from a non-associated residence is totally unacceptable (especially when one studies the proposed layout it can be seen there is no need to have turbine 117, 118, 119 included at all as they appear to be late additions).

If one studies the proposed plan of the White Rock Wind farm, turbines 117, 118 and 119 could be removed totally and have minimal effect of the entire development. If not, when one takes in to account our concerns confirmed by the Senate Enquiry (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011) then turbines 117, 118 and 119 should be relocated further away from any non-associated residence.

## **LAND VALUES**

We have major concerns that the value of our land will decrease as a result of the close proximity of wind turbines 117, 118 and 119 as a result of the combined affects of the previously mentioned concerns. If our property was to be devalued, the obviously that jeopardises our farm loan, i.e. loss of equity.

## **CONCLUSION**

Considering the growing concerns regarding health, noise, vibration, etc, there should be a moratorium on all wind farm proposals until such time that the independent research recommended by the Senate Enquiry (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011) is carried out. If not, then at least non-associated adjoining residences should be given the necessary distance from turbines to guarantee the owners that they are not going to suffer all, or any of the mentioned negatives in this submission, i.e. local Severn Shire Council has a DCP of a 2km set back and should be allowed to enforce it because if people like ourselves suffer any negative impacts who is liable?

If associated land owners are prepared to live with the consequences of their decision to be involved then that is their right, i.e. take the money offered and be prepared to live with turbines close to their homes. However, the neighbouring land owners and their families must be protected from any potential negative impacts (Senate Enquiry, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2011).