

Robert & Sandra Keough
"Tryagain"
1117 Spring Mountain Road
SWAN VALE NSW 2370

Submission Major Project - White Rock Wind Farm – MP 10_0160

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

"Tryagain" is a 652.8 ha property situated in the middle of a horseshoe ridge 11 kilometres from the Gwydir Highway along Spring Mountain Road. The property is Zoned 1 (a) (Rural (Agricultural) Zone), with Environmentally Sensitive and has zoned Bush Fire Prone areas. With the White Rock Wind Farm development the property will be surrounded by 36 Wind Towers with tips visible, 27 will have hubs visible and 12 full towers visible. (*reference: email sent by Andrew Wilson, Epuron Pty Ltd, 8/2/11*). Our neighbours to the south have also signed and agreed to host wind towers with another developer. If this development is also approved we will be completely surrounded by wind towers.

It is *not* our intention to try to prevent this development as we are aware of the importance of renewable energy however in the process of obtaining this renewable energy we would like to draw to the Government's attention the effect some actions have on the "little" person. We purchased this property in 2006 believing that we would develop it into a profitable cattle producing enterprise. We were attracted by the location and the serenity it offered. We would not have purchased the property had we known that it would be surrounded by wind turbines.

As soon as we were told of the wind farm approximately 10 months ago by a "hosting" neighbour we offered the property to both the neighbours involved with the wind farm. The neighbour to the north declined then proceeded to purchase extra property on the other side of the range to enable him to have more towers. The other neighbour to the south east, who does not live on the "hosting" property, stated that he was not in a position to purchase the property. We even suggested that they divide the property for each to add half to their own properties. This too was declined. Both have admitted that they "hosting" for the money with the northern neighbour telling us we would have to just live with them.

When the "hosting" neighbours declined our offer we contacted Epuron to make them the same offer. Andrew Wilson, Construction Manager for Epuron Pty Ltd visited the property in the first week of February 2011. Our first face to face meeting with Epuron. Screening, towers and the property being for sale were all discussed at this meeting.

Screening would not suit as any screen would have to be of some height due to the towers being on a ridge above us and it would be impossible to screen the whole property. We certainly didn't appreciate a tower being offered knowing their effects to our property. Andrew Wilson informed us that "Epuron does not purchase property as part of developing a wind farm". (*as per email sent to us dated 8/2/11*). Andrew Durran, Executive Director, Epuron Pty Ltd even offered us a "dam". We have not found our dealings with Epuron to be [REDACTED], professional or productive.

In this submission we have listed all our concerns and tried to substantiate each concern to the best of our ability. After researching and gathering information pertaining to wind turbines we can not see ourselves being able to dwell on or effectively work this property.

Our areas of concern cover the following topics:

Health & Safety	Blade Failure
Fire	Noise
Landscape	Decommissioning of Towers
Devaluation of Property	Intrusion onto Property
Ice Shedding	Insurance
Restriction to Agricultural Activities	Restriction to Future Development
Telecommunications	Ecology
Erosion	

We have been numbered R56 in relation to noise monitoring and R57 for visual monitoring within the Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Environmental Assessment (EA) Document:

Please note location errors within the EA: Our property number R56 (Tryagain) is **not** positioned on the correct property in the following areas,

- Page 110 & 111 - Section 9, 9.2.3, Figures 9-8 predicted Noise Levels for the REpower MM92 & Figure 9-9 Predicted Noise Levels for the Vestas V90
- Appendix G -Noise Contours Page 47 & 48 -Environmental Noise Assessment (being same maps as above)

Refer Figure 7-1, Community Consultation map, Section 7, 7.2.2.2, page 80 for the correct location of the house for property number R56(Try Again).

The EA refers both noise and visual data to the dwelling on the property. We would argue that as graziers the whole property is our workplace. Livestock graze all of the property, fencing, weed spraying and mustering to name a few are agricultural activities which are carried out throughout the property. Therefore we find all referral to the dwelling for monitoring the effects and distances as incorrect and intend showing how the towers will effect our agricultural activities.

Our concerns are as follows;

HEALTH & SAFETY:

By far the most important area for consideration. Medical reports are being lodged internationally on the effects of wind turbines on humans and now animals. In Australia where wind farms are a relatively new development reports are emerging of medical finding that state that the towers do have an adverse effect on those living near them. Research is hampered by the fact that landowners hosting towers have a contract “gag” with the developer thus not being able to speak out.

- Extract -Submission to the Australian Federal Senate Enquiry 10 February 2011
Dr Sarah Laurie BMBS

“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

Current planning and noise guidelines will need to be updated on the basis of this new knowledge”

- Submission to the Australian Federal Senate Enquiry 10 February 2011
Nina Peirpont, MD, PhD

Discovered “Wind Turbine Syndrome”. Her submission, medically backed, frightens anyone who may be living within 5ks of a turbine. Her evidence proves the effect of low frequency noise on vestibular organs – balance, motion and position.

- **“Low Frequency Noise and Health Effects”**

Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira PhD, Lusofona University, Lisbon, Portugal and Nuno Castelo Branco, MD, Centre for Human Performance, Alverca Portugal

Extract:

*“Low Frequency Noise (LFN) exposure causes;
Thickening of the alveolar walls
Abnormal production of organised collagen
dBA units are inadequate for assessing LFN”*

Their work also lists their findings with horses that have been exposed to LFN. The horses also have abnormal productions of organised collagen which results in the inability to place the hoof flatly on the ground - club foot or tip-toeing. This report raises concerns about the welfare of our livestock, horses, as well as ourselves.

The Environmental Court deemed properties at Crookwell “uninhabitable” . The planing approval document for application 07_0110, Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd , Item 2.25 *Land Acquisition and Criteria* lists towers to be removed or properties to be acquired by the developer. By including this in the approval hasn't the health risk been acknowledged legally and by Government?

Providing a safe workplace: OHS Requirement

*Refer pages 21-22, Submission to the Australian Federal Senate Enquiry 10 February 2011
Dr Sarah Laurie BMBS*

Dr Laurie's submission raises the issue of providing a safe workplace on the property for ourselves and any future employee. The onus will be on us to do this but with eight (8) turbines and a substation within metres of the workplace how can we guarantee a safe workplace.

BLADE FAILURE:

Blade failure can arise from a number of possible sources, and results in either whole blades or pieces of blade being thrown from the turbine.

Number of recorded Blade Failures

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
No:			3	32	4	6	15	13	15	12	16	22	20	25	16

2010* to 30 September 2010 only

Pieces of blade are documented as travelling up to 1300 metres. A single turbine blade can weigh between 10-20 tonne depending on the size of the turbine. In Germany, blade pieces have gone through the roofs and walls of nearby buildings. This is why Caithness Windfarm Information Forum (CWIF) believe that there should be a minimum distance of at least 2km between turbines and occupied housing. In order to adequately address public safety and other issues including noise and shadow flicker. “ -Caithness Windfarm Information Forum 31 March 2011. www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk

Local Council's Development Control Plans have also include a 2k set back recommendation.

“The possibilities of failure are well recognised by insurance companies-an inspection clause has been included in contracts since 2002. Rotor blades and their internal lightning protection must be inspected once a year and after 40,000 operating hours (or five years), must be reconditioned. The gears, generator and main bearings must be replaced after 40,000 operating hours, regardless of their condition, and the stator and rotor windings of the generator and the gear wheels must be examined. *Windblatt (2002): The ENERCON Magazine, issue 06. From the Book titled - “The Wind Farm Scam” by Dr John Etherington- retired Reader in Ecology at the University of Wales, Cardiff. Dr Etherington is also a Thomas Huxley Medallist at the Royal College of Science.*

Blade failure also raises concerns for livestock and any person working on the property. Our property “Tryagain” (R56, pages 43, 47 & 48 of the Sonus Noise Assessment document) has a turbine 1362 (m) from our house and the Turbine Location Map in the EA has Turbine No 32 on the property boundary. The location of this turbine would certainly disallow any agricultural work to be performed in this area of the property.

Tip Speed:

3 MW turbines have 50-metre long blades that reach high speeds at the tip: 358 kph .

FIRE:

The New South Wales (NSW) Fire Brigade (due to the hydraulic fluids the Rural Fire Service are unable to attend Wind Tower fires) at the time of writing does not have a policy for fighting wind tower ignited fires. The only fire policy NSW has for Wind Towers- “watch it burn”

Fire is the second most common accident cause in incidents, second to Blade Failure. Some turbine types seem more prone to fire than others. Recorded fire numbers are tabled below.

Number of recorded Turbine Fires

Year	70s	80s	90-94	95-99	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	*11
No:			1	5	3	2	24	17	15	14	12	21	17	16	9	2

* to 31 March 2011 only

“ The biggest problem with turbine fires is that, because of the turbine height, the fire brigade can do little but watch it burn itself out. While this may be acceptable in reasonably still conditions, in a storm it means burning debris being scattered over a wide area, with obvious consequences. In dry weather there is obviously a wider area fire risk, especially for those constructed in or close to forest areas and/or close to housing.” -*Caithness Windfarm Information Forum 31 March 2011. www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk*

Several turbine-ignited fires have burned hundreds of acres of vegetation- 800 square miles (200,000 acres) of Australian National Park - *Environmental effects of wind power Wikipedia.*



** Pictures of turbines on fire. Fire is caused by mechanical failure leading to overheating . Films of turbines on fire can be viewed on web sites.*

How does this information relate to our property?

As previously stated “Tryagain” contains Bush Fire Prone areas which are situated less the 2ks from proposed towers. The NSW Fire Brigade are 48ks away at Inverell and 41ks away at Glen Innes by road. Obviously the same distances can be quoted for the Rural Fire Service. Neither have helicopters.

Refer Section 10:10.5, 10.5.3 of the EA -Impacts of fire fighting operations

The EA states “ Wind farms have been found to influence temperature and wind speed around turbines and have the potential to influence bush fire behaviour. A distance of up to 1.25kkm (SEDA, 2002) around each turbine is likely to experience warmer night temperatures and faster wind speeds etc “ The house is 1.3kms from the closest wind tower but our farm and farm assets are well under 500m.

Our livestock (cattle) graze the entire property, machinery, waterlines and fencing, all will face an added risk from the towers.

What fire management policy will be adopted?

One policy is the CFA (Victoria) Emergency Management Guidelines for Wind Farms-Version 3 April 2007. These guidelines outline the CFA recommendations for fire safety measures to be considered for wind farms.

Location and access of the White Rock Wind Farm do not meet their recommendations. Should a buffer zone greater then 60m be determined this would encroach onto our property.

The Expert Witness Statement of John David Nicholson for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd stated that he had been informed that temperature sensors had been installed in the nacelle and hub that will pick up the heat of a flame and shut-down the turbine. The shut-down sending an alarm to the control room, thus minimising the time the fire has to spread before staff and fire fighters are on the scene. As the EA states that the final turbine design has not been decided perhaps this could be a condition placed on the developers.

NOISE:

Refer to property number R56, pages 43, 47 & 48 of the Sonus Noise Assessment document.

Please note that once again they use the dwelling as the measuring point, stating that the closest tower is 1362 (m) away when in fact there is a tower positioned on the NE boundary and several towers ranging from 100-200 meters above livestock or a person working in one of our paddocks.

Although we are not qualified to technically analysis the findings it is obvious on the graph on page 43 that we can expect higher noise levels then our current background levels. The graph shows the

readings almost reaching the criteria. Reading through the methodology of the Noise Assessment we interrupt that the test is based on wind speeds, 5 to 10 ks per hour. Is this the most appropriate test for for a sound that may be instigated up to 300 meters above into a still windless valley below?

Dr G.P. van den Berg's - "The sound of high winds: the effect of atmospheric stability on wind turbine sound and microphone noise" - doctoral thesis from the University of Groningen, Netherlands , completed May 2006.

Dr G.P. van den Berg's findings showed that the night time wind speed at hub height is up to 2.6 times higher than expected from the conventional extrapolation from wind speed measured at 10 (m) height (as done in the EA by Sonus). The higher wind speed causes faster rotation and up to 15dB higher sound levels, relative to the same 10 (m) reference wind speed in daytime. His paper also concluded that day or night, the background noise did not effectively mask the "thumping" sound of the blades passing the tower. The "thumping" is not perceptible close to the turbines – only at a distance.- *Dr G.P. van den Berg (2004) "Effects of the wind profile at night on wind turbine sound", Journal of Sound and Vibration, 277,955-970.*

Reported ABC Country Hour -10 June 2011

"Low Frequency Noise and Health Effects"

Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira PhD, Lusofona University, Lisbon, Portugal and Nuno Castelo Branco, MD, Centre for Human Performance, Alverca Portugal

Points from the above report;

dBA Unit

dBA provides a measure of the amplitude as if being heard by the human auditory system.

dBA unit is commonly used in legislation.

The A-filter simulates human hearing

dBA de-emphasises all acoustical phenomena below 500 Hz, and ignores infrasound.

Is this, then, the most appropriate unit to be measuring low frequency noise?

We would urge you to research the different types of noise analysis. If Dr G.P. van den Berg's, Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira PhD or Nuno Castelo Branco MD, analogy is correct, the tower structures can be modified to overcome the noise.

Please note as previously stated that property number R56 (Tryagain) is not positioned correctly on the maps on pages 47 & 48 of the Noise Assessment. R56 is not shown on the correct property but further away.

LANDSCAPE -VIEW:

Refer property number R57 in EA. Section 8, 8.2 -Page 49 - Table 14 -Residential View Location Matrix

Listed as having a moderate vision impact, and once again reference is made from the dwelling, stating hub height visibility is low. An email sent to us from Andrew Wilson -Epuron Pty Ltd – dated 8/2/11-stated:

"The report assessed the visual impact of the wind farm at your residence as high and calculated the number of wind turbines that would be visible as follows:

full turbines visible: 12

hubs visible: 27

tips visible: 36"

The rating submitted in the EA is a contradiction to the facts stated in the email.

Refer Figure 4 – Topography

The property has an elevation between 900-1000m. With the northern spur ridge having an elevation of 1186m (Position Tower No 32). The horse-shoe ridge surrounding the property has an elevation of between 1100-1200m. Therefore the turbines will be situated 100-200m above us at their base. Add on

the height of the turbines, to the tip of the blade of 140m (if a 2.0MW tower is used and not a 3.00MW) as stated in the EA we will have structures with a total height of 200.4m-300.4m above our working area. Page 136, section 10,10.1.1- states that towers will be “up to height of 150m” - this would result in another 10m added to the overall height.

The ridge and the proposed positioning of the towers are on our eastern boundary. Until the sun position is above the towers we will have shadows cast on our eastern paddocks. This situation will be worsened when the blades are spinning and a “flicker” occurs.

Refer Section 10, 10.1 Figure 34 of EA - Photomontage -Location W41 (refer Figure 25 for Photomontage Location)

The EA photograph shows the ridge described above. The photograph is taken near the dwelling, which is situated on a ridge, the property itself is in the valley below the ridge with paddocks just below the superimposed turbines. To perform any agricultural task we head towards to towers as the bulk of the property is south, south-east and east of the house site.

We note that the EA states;

“ A range of turbines are being considered with a capacity between 1.5 and 3.4 megawatts. For ease of presentation the calculations used throughout this EA assume an indicative capacity of 238 MW based on a typical and mid-range 2.0 MW turbine. “

If a larger turbine is the final selection, heights would probably increase to those stated in the EA.



Illustration 2: Location Towers 35, 36, 37 & 38. Looking NE. Boundary at base of ridge.



Illustration 3: Looking up at the site of Tower No 32 from house window. Site located right of centre



Illustration 4: Location Tower No 32 on boundary overlooking house on the other side of the hill. Site of tower is to the left of the centre in the gap between trees, where boundary fence is situated

Please note the vegetation close to the base of each tower.



Illustration 6: View from just outside the house yard on the site that Epuron took their picture. The sites of Towers 33,35,36,37 & 38. House is on a ridge looking down on sections of the property. NE.

Refer Section 10, 10.1 Figure 34 of EA - Photomontage -Location W41 (refer Figure 25 for Photomontage Location)

DECOMMISSIONING OF TOWERS: Bonds lodged to cover the cost.

The timing of any decommissioning could be from commencement to 30 years, what guarantee is in place that any decommissioning will be carried out as most of us will not be around to see it implemented. Does the Government have any bond lodged with the developer which would guarantee funds were available? The developer will have sold the project on once it is completed as shown in the EA. Refer Table 2-1 New South Wales wind farm projects developed by Epuron ,Section 2,2.2, page 27

The Australian country side could end up like countries overseas where for example in America, California alone has an estimated 10,000 decommissioned towers left marking the landscape. Obviously the value of the scrap metal (as quoted in the EA) hasn't enticed all developers/owners to pull the towers down.

Refer: "Landowners could face clean-up bill " G. Travis, The Sun Times, 3 February 2011

"Unused wind farm raises decommissioning issues" Premium content from Pacific Business News - by Sophie Cocke, Pacific Business News, Date: Friday, April 29, 2011, 12:00am HST

This article includes a quote stating that "the cost of taking down a present day turbine will be \$100,000 US and that scrap prices would only reimburse a third of the cost of removing a wind farm.

DEVALUATION OF PROPERTY:

Weekly Times Now- Wind Farms Harm Values – Lyndal Reading – February 8, 2011

Elders Rural Services National Sales Manager, Shane McIntyre -"the towers were seen by most of the market as "repulsive" and could lead to 30 to 50 per cent drop in the value of the land.

We have major concerns that our equity in the farm may decrease.

INTRUSION ONTO PROPERTY:

Air Space

Refer Page 138 EA, Figure 10-2, Landing strips within 5km of turbine

500m Aerial Clearance has been shown on our property due to a cluster of towers being situated on the north-east boundary. This will disadvantage the property for any aerial applications. (Towers: 32 & 33). The local Aerial Spraying contractor has indicate a 1km "No Go Zone".

Shadow Flicker /Substation Noise

Refer EA,Section 10, 10.4, Page 153, Figure 10-7

The EA states that shadow flicker can not be noticed further then 500-1000m.

Our dwelling is shown as being 1362m away. Tower number 32 has a 200m elevation above our dwelling with little to no tree cover. In winter the sun rises directly behind this proposed tower. We are shown as being 500m outside the lowest estimate of 1-25 shadow flicker hours per year Acknowledging that we are not qualified to state that there will be shadow flicker we will await the outcome. We refer to Tower No: 32

Our work area -The shadow/shadow flicker (if operating) will be present until the sun is above the towers in half of the property's paddocks. The towers are on the eastern boundary, 100-200m above at their base, plus tower height estimated at 140m, a total of 240-340m high structure in front of the rising sun. This will encroach on our ability to work in these areas until the sun is above the towers. We refer to Tower Nos: 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 & 39.

Refer Figure 40-Proposed 132kV Transmission Line. Proposed Substation Indicative Option 2.

We have concerns if Option 2 is chosen placing the substation so close to our boundary.

Substations by nature "hum" twenty four hours a day. The noise would inhibit work in the area.

ICE SHEDDING:

The horseshoe ridge which surrounds our property has an elevation of 1100-1200m. We purchased the property in 2006. In June 2007 the ridge was snow capped for 2 days. If the area is cold enough to snow it is certainly cold enough to have ice build up on the tower blades. The EA only refers to frost and ice. The area is prone to snow.

Ice throw has been reported to 140m. A piece of ice the size of a 250 gm block of butter can become a lethal weapon.

The British Horse Society (BHS) conducted a survey of its members in regard to wind turbines. The problems identified from the survey were, turbines casting shadows, creating noise, the risk of flying ice, and horses being spooked by the movement of blades. All of the named problems often caused the rider to fall or become unseated (with several of the respondents requiring hospitalisation).

INSURANCE:

We were informed by Andrew Wilson from Epuron Pty Ltd that the developer is only responsible for Liability Insurance to the base of the tower. If our property or any of the property assets were damaged due to fire with a tower origin or pieces of tower being thrown, who is liable?

I could find no statement in the EA on Liability Insurance.

RESTRICTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Aerial Applications** – fertiliser and weed control

The Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA) has a published policy (March 2011) which opens with the following statement;

*“As a result of the overwhelming safety and economic impact of windfarms and supporting infrastructure on the sector, AAAA **opposes all windfarm developments** in areas of agricultural production or elevated bushfire risk.”*

Another statement contained within the policy is:

“windfarms can have far-reaching footprints that can remove significant amounts of land from treatment for a considerable distance from the windfarm boundary”

We have been told by our local aerial service provider that there will probably be a 1km “no go zone”. This would result in our property not receiving any aerial service. Some areas of the property can only be serviced by air.

Combine this project with the other three (3) wind farms there is a considerable area that will no longer have aerial agricultural services in our region. *Refer Figure 2-1, Section 2, 2.1*

- **Mustering Stock from Horseback**

All stock are mustered on horseback using working dogs. The terrain is suited to this practise. As previously stated shadow flickering, noise, movement of the blades and the possibilities of ice throw will either hamper or halt our mustering. There is also the fear of blade failure while we are working below the turbines. Refer to British Horse Society (BHS) which established many falls from horses relating to the workings of the towers which resulted in areas being closed to horse riding activities. (*see under Ice Shedding above*)

- **Safety of Livestock**

Safety of the livestock contained in paddocks under 500m from the towers. These concerns are due to the reasons stated before – blade failure, fire, fright from noise or shadow and in the colder months, ice throw. The effects of long term exposure to Low Frequency Noise on horses is now documented (*refer “**Low Frequency Noise and Health Effects**” - Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira PhD, Lusofona University, Lisbon, Portugal and Nuno Castelo Branco, MD, Centre for Human Performance, Alverca Portuga*) will our breeding stock face the same threat.

RESTRICTION ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:

The property was purchased in 2006. The property was run down having not been worked for several years prior. The years between 2006-2010 were drought years which inhibited any major development but small works were completed.

With the towers looming and all the concerns surrounding them, property plans are now on hold and have been since a neighbour let “slip” about the towers 10 months ago. Money has been set aside for the erection of sheds and the possible development of a cabin to host visitors wanting to escape the city and enjoy the bush scenery and wildlife.

Research indicates that there is a real possibility that we may not be able to live on the property once the towers are operational. *Refer to The Environmental Court deemed properties at Crookwell “uninhabitable” - as stated under the heading Health & Safety in this submission.*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Mobile Telephone:

We currently have mobile phone coverage over 60-70% of the property. The mobile plays a crucial part of operations as Robert works alone. Should anything happen while he is working the chances are that he will be able to contact assistance. Having had heart trouble it is reassuring to both of us that he has these odds of getting help should something happen.

Internet:

We have wireless internet which works very well. The internet provides us with information that determines some of our agricultural activities, such as weather updates, transfer of cattle as per legislation requirements etc. The wireless service has only been provided for 12 months and has filled a void that dial-up and satellite could not provide.

Television:

The area is scheduled to have digital in 2012. The EA only addresses analogue. *Refer page 10 Telecommunications Impact Assessment (TIA)*

We currently receive four (4) analogue stations, ABC, Prime, NBN and Channel 10 and live within 5kms (1362m) from the turbines. The International Telecommunications Union recommendation (*page 11*) implies that we may experience television reception difficulties when it states “impacts beyond 5 kilometres are unlikely”.

Should we lose our television reception it is reassuring that Epuron Pty Ltd will provide five (5) options that will guarantee the return of our television reception. *Refer page 13, 4.3 Mitigation Measures.*

ECOLOGY:

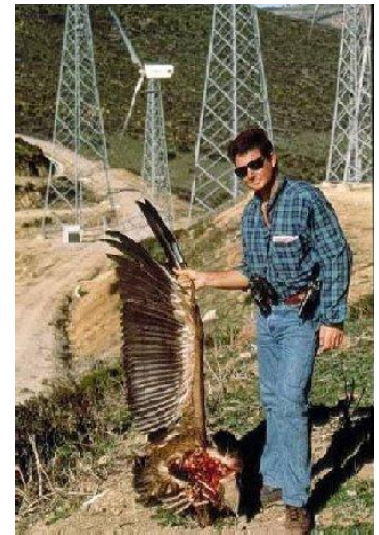
Unfortunately we are of the opinion that if the effect of the towers on humans can not persuade Government intervention, the effect of the bird life has less chance. The Introduction in the EA, Section 2, 2.1 Overview of the Project, Figure 2-1 certainly indicates the close of flyways for birds in the region. With the other three (3) wind farm projects a lot of safe aerial space has been removed for the birds. *Refer Figure 2-1, Section 2, 2.1*

Refer to Figure 1-2: Flora Quadrat Locations -Prepared by RPS East Pty Ltd for the EA

This figure details the area explored for the report. What of the flora and fauna only metres away on our property. We have the “Barking Owl” and the Wedge-Tail Eagle” and abundance of flocks of parrots -”King”, “Little Lorikett”, “Rainbow Lorikett”, “Crimson Rosella”and the “Eastern Rosella”.

Some facts:

- In Tasmania a number of threatened wedge-tail eagles have died after colliding with turbines. *Source – Wind Farms The facts and the Fallacies – Andrew Macintosh & Christine Downie*
- In Spain 368 wind towers are responsible for 6,450 bird deaths per year. *Source – Lekuona Report as reviewed by Mark Duchamp -savetheeagles@midrid.com*



* Pictures of eagles and a duck killed by turbines. Not all bodies are recovered as they are chopped and scatted with body parts strewn over a wide area.

Posted on the web the following article highlights the role Australia is playing in rising number of kills on eagles by approving wind farm developments in unsuitable locations. Refer: *Mark Duchamp savetheeagles@midrid.com*

“Wind farm project likely to kill 200-300 eagles - Australia

SAVE THE EAGLES INTERNATIONAL DENOUNCES THE DUPLICITY OF BIRD SOCIETIES

Yaloak, Victoria, is a “déjà vu” situation, a mainland repeat of the Woolnorth windfarm fiasco in Tasmania. There, 20 wedge-tailed eagles have been hacked to their deaths by rotor blades. More of them may have been killed at other wind farms on the island but the authorities are not keen to find out, much less to inform the public. Mitigation attempts have all failed, so the carnage won’t stop.

The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle is a sub-species of the mainland “wedgie”. Already on the endangered list, it is now condemned to extinction as the State government is transforming its habitat into an aerial minefield of sorts. Its cousin species is more abundant on continental Australia, but a larger number of wind farms will be built in its breeding territories and dispersion areas, acting as “population sinks”. Yaloak is a case in point: next to the proposed wind farm is an escarpment that attracts young, transient eagles. They come from Victoria, NSW, SA, and possibly beyond. That will cause an ongoing massacre, and the bird population of the bordering Brisbane Ranges National Park will too be affected. It is definitely the wrong place for building a wind farm.”

EROSION:

As the towers are situated on the top of a ridge which surrounds our property we have concerns of soil erosion which may be created from the footing and hardstand with EA quoted dimensions of 25x60m or the 5-10m wide roads along the ridge. This is a large intrusion into/onto the structure of the ridge.

Will soil erosion result from these massive holes filled with concrete? Combine this intrusion with the acknowledged temperature and wind changes that surround the towers (stated in the EA) could we see a scorched ridge in years to come?

OPTIONS:

Option 1.

Have the developer purchase the property.

We placed the property on the market with four (4) different agents several months ago. Obviously we have not been able to sell. We feel that with the wind farm publicity the chances of selling have been greatly reduced.

All the medical and risk data concerning wind farms confirms that we will not be able to live on the property and all agricultural activities will be either unserviceable or greatly hampered, coupled with the risk of fire hanging over our heads.

Option 2.

The removal of the towers that have a direct environmental impact on our living and work area due to noise, shadow/flickering, debris, ice shedding and aerial space.

Tower No's

- 31
- 32 shown on our boundary
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38

Substation: - Denial of Option 2, Approval of Option 1 as positioned in the EA. This would position the the substation away from our NE and Eastern paddocks.

CONCLUSION:

We hope that we have been able to provide enough evidence that confirms that our health, livelihood and way of life will never be the same living beneath the turbines.

The sale of the property would enable us to re-locate and start again. We are fortunate that the farm has only been a part of our lives since 2006 and although we did plan to pass it on to family we could still do this with another farm.

We would like to join the qualified experts that have asked for a moratorium on wind farm development until more research can be carried out on the effects of wind farms on the people and livestock living and working around them (wind farms). The Federal Senate Inquiry into Wind Farms will be completed 14 June 2011 and the National Health and Medicine Research Council held their international forum on 7 June 2011, results pending.

You have an open invitation to visit the farm and see first hand what we have tried to demonstrate in this document.

ROBERT & SANDRA KEOUGH
"Tryagain"
1117 Spring Mountain Road
SWAN VALE NSW 2370

23 February 2012

Attention: Neville Osborne & James Archdale

Addition: Submission Major Project – White Rock Wind Farm – MP 10_0130

Since our first submission there have been further developments which deem the property "Tryagain" both un-saleable and un-workable as an agricultural enterprise.

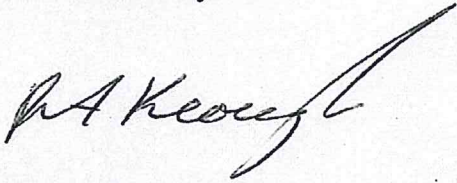
- Our attempt to sell the property has failed as prospective buyers have walked away when told of the possible windfarm development . We have a written statement from one agent commissioned to sell the property that two (2) keen purchasers both walked away when told of the towers. We also have verbal comments of the same effect from an Elders agent and a Landmark agent.
- Our local Council, Inverell Shire Council, have stated in their submission that should the White Rock Wind Farm be approved no further developments will be approved with a 2k radius of the towers. As the proposed towers are only meters from the property boundary and overlook the complete property from the elevated ridge they are to be built on, the property would be effected by this ruling. This Council ruling will not allow us to further our desire to have cabins on the property for tourist to enjoy the bush walking or native wildlife the property offers. This plan was to also supply an alternate source of income for the property. *(see the submission from Inverell Shire Council)*.
- New OHS regulations which came into force on 1 January 2012 have added to our inability to provide a safe working area for any future employees or contractors.
- A telephone call received 20 January 2012 has also worsened the property's position if White Rock Wind Farm proceeds. Our [REDACTED] neighbour, [REDACTED] informed us that another wind farm developer, [REDACTED] would like to meet with us to offer us two (2) wind towers (which we will not be accepting) in their development which will result in "Tryagain" being completely surrounded by wind towers. The neighbour has agreed to host wind towers on his property which is situated on the southern side of the horseshoe ridge which surrounds our property. This will have the effect of all acres of "Tryagain" being overlooked by towers on the surrounding horseshoe ridge which is 100m-200m above our property. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NOTE: We do appreciate that the above statement has no official documentation at this time however we sincerely hope that you will not doubt the statements authenticity. A meeting with the southern boundary wind farm developer has been arranged for February.

All the findings that are now available on the internet regarding the effects of Wind Farms has already had an effect on the way we are living and operating this property. We can see no future in capital improvements as both the medical research and the statistical data on fires, ice throwing and noise that result from Wind Farms all indicate that we will not be able to live or work on the property.

With the added developments listed above we can only restate our case that should the White Rock Wind Farm development be approved that the approval include a condition to purchase the property "Tryagain".

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Keough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Keough

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Keough". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "S".

Sandra Keough