

Submission to the Department of Planning concerning the proposed Flyers Creek Industrial Wind Complex.

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I strongly object to this proposed Industrial Development

After originally thinking that power generated by wind turbines were a good idea, I am now quite convinced by much reading of overseas research and experience, and reports from people living in both NSW, Victoria and South Australia, who have had these industrial monstrosities inflicted on them, that they are an expensive and inefficient way of producing power

Firstly they require a gas-fired power station to back up power output, when turbines are not working. This has to be an equivalent mega-wattage output to that expected from the turbines. These machines are only 30% efficient and obviously need constant back up from fossil-fuelled electricity generators. The power produced is considerably more expensive as the turbines have to be subsidised by the taxpayer. They also require large amounts of manufactured steel, concrete and rare earth metals for their manufacture, hardly ögreen.ö

After recently watching a programme "Mega Builders " on SBS TV, and seeing how enormous these industrial machines are, I cannot believe that they can be built in the Flyers Creek area without causing considerable damage to our already poor roads, and many trees will have to be removed to widen the roads to allow these huge pieces of equipment to be brought into our rural area.

We do not have a great amount of timber left in this area, and removal of more will increase loss of habitat for local wildlife, and shelter for other livestock.

Also, from reading extensive studies carried out overseas, in Canada, U.K and U.S.A., populations of insectivorous birds and micro bats are also decimated by these machines. With a subsequent increase in insect pests which has added to the cost of agricultural production, as farmers have had to spend increasing amounts of money to get rid of insects previously controlled by natural predators.

The Flyers Creek turbines will be built within a 15 kilometre radius of Spring Hill Airport. Plans are under way to expand this facility. The proponent - Infigen- of this industrial wind development have not yet notified CASA (to my knowledge) of their intentions to construct this industrial complex. Lights will be required on the turbines for aviation safety reasons. These in turn will attract insects, which will then attract birds and micro bats, and lead to their demise, either by collision with the turbine blades, in the case of the birds, or baro trauma in the case of the micro bats.

One of our local micro bats, the Common Bentwing Bat is listed as vulnerable. The construction of this industrial complex, damage to the environment, and risk of baro trauma to the micro bats will not enhance the species' chance of survival.

References to many of these studies, from both Australia and overseas, have been quoted in the submission put in to the Department by the Flyers Creek Wind Turbine Awareness Group.

As a Grandmother, I do not want to see our beautiful country littered with these inefficient pieces of equipment, possibly just rusting away, (as are 16,000 in the United States.) Promoted by greedy overseas companies who do not care about our Landscape or future, as long as they can pick up subsidies provided by taxpayers and head off with their profits. It is an ongoing concern to me that my grandchildren will have some horrible messes to clean up, as well as climate change to deal with which will not be helped by the manufacture and occasional operation of wind turbines.

I strongly believe that Australia, with all the sunshine at our disposal, should be looking at the many more efficient technologies being rapidly developed overseas. If Australia wishes to continue using other people's outdated and inefficient technology, the wind turbines at least should be sited off shore,

as in many parts of Europe. Here they will not interfere with people living on the land, cause less trauma to wildlife and the rural environment, and the power will be generated close to the coastal populations, where it is needed.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my serious concerns,

Lyn Suttie.