


Mr Toby Philip  
NSW Planning Department  
Sydney



Dear Mr Philip,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Flyers Creek Wind Farm and its associated environmental assessment.

My first concern is related to Chapter 6 and the consultation process that has been lacking between Infigen Energy and the community.

In Chapter 6.1 Infigen energy writes before 'implementing an effective program of community consultation' they must 'identify stakeholder groups'. So should it actually be called 'Stakeholder consultation' rather than 'community consultation'?

If you live more than 3km from a turbine, Infigen have made no attempt to engage you in their 'community consultation'. This 'communities' definition of community is obviously much different to Infigens.

I understand it is hard to draw a line on a map but the community around Flyers Creek certainly spreads much further than 3km. You only have to look at the visual maps supplied by Infigen for their E.A. to see that the Wind farm will have an impact far greater than 3km from turbines so why not better engage the broader community during the consultation process.

The only way they have attempted to engage those in the wider community, that is more than 3km was through the information day at Tallwood Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010. This was done extremely poorly; with very few in the broader community even made aware that the consultation day was on. In November 2010, the closest planned turbine to our house was approximately 3.6km. We were eventually made aware of the information day on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments we could not attend either day, but foolishly thought that there would be much more community consultation to come. Unfortunately that was not to be.

I spoke to many others in the community after the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November to see if they attended, only one of our friends did and they had only heard about the consultation meeting, word of mouth from a direct neighbour of the proposed wind farm. I understand that Infigen had an advertisement in a local paper promoting the two days but this was obviously inadequate as those in the community who I have spoken too knew nothing about the consultation days. Infigen has held the day as a 'Token gesture' of community consultation without actually really wishing to engage anyone further then 3km from the project.

The photos presented on page 6-14, seem to support to the lack of numbers that attended on the day, the Tallwood Hall certainly looks pretty empty.

Two appropriate questions I would have thought for the community consultation meeting questionnaire would have been; How did you know the meeting was being held? Do you have a direct connection to the proposed wind farm e.g. prospective wind farmer or family member of prospective wind farmer?

Towards the end of page 6-2, it is written 'Overall, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd has aimed to make information available to stakeholders'. That's right 'Stakeholders', those within 3km of the project not the broader community.

On page 6-2, I now refer to the methods that Infigen Energy use in their consultation methods these include a number of methods of communication. The one which I don't see as an effective consultation method is media interviews and newspaper articles. A community consultation strategy should include methods where both parties, the community and proponent can have some form of dialogue. Using the media as a form of consultation I believe is totally inappropriate and I think they have probably added this to the E.A. just to bolster the appearance of community consultation as it is so badly lacking.

Halfway down page 6-6, more is said about the community consultation meeting and even goes on to mention that 'The Blayney Shire Mayor, Bruce Kingham, attended the community information day and expressed support for the wind farm project'. Interestingly I attended a Blayney Shire Council meeting December 12<sup>th</sup> 2011. At this meeting Cr Ewin stood and talked about the fact that he was disappointed that councillors were not told more about the project in the months and years leading up to the EA submission. Our illustrious Mayor Mr Kingham pointed out to Cr Ewin that Infigen did have a community consultation meeting in November 2010, that all were invited to attend. (Well not all were invited, only those who lived within 3km). Mayor Kingham was there, supporting the project as stated in Infigens EA. Interestingly he was the only councillor that I have heard attended. His attendance and stated support should not have been noted in the EA. His support of the project is his personal view only; the council had not agreed to support the project as the EA was still many months away.

From this I conclude that the consultation to the broader community was poorly carried out and that the bare minimum was performed by the proponent with no real care as to the broader community's thoughts and concerns.

My second concern relates to the visual assessment – C1.

Once again I am concerned about Infigens lack of engaging and informing the wider community on the visual impacts of the project.

Their map Figures C1-6 are cut off. The blue which indicates 'who' will see the turbines extends right to the edges on all four sides north, south, east and west, but the maps are cut off. I think it would only be fair to include at least one map that extends as far as these turbines will be seen. The two main reasons for this are

1. It would give the wider community an indication of whether they will be able to sight the turbines from their residences.
2. It will give the community an indication of how big these turbines are going to be.

Figure C-6 shows how many turbines should be visible. Looking at the map I would say our house is right on the border of one of the small areas that are white on the map and a darker blue. My husband and I have looked at this map a couple of times and decided from looking at the map we probably wouldn't see any of the turbines.

Recently we took the time to read the whole of C1 – Visual assessment document and to our surprise our property is included on table C1 – Review of Indicative Visibility for Viewpoint from Neighbouring Residences within 5km.

We have now discovered we will view 17 turbines and 12 hubs. We have had absolutely no contact from Infigen informing us of this. Infigen rate our impact as low due to a couple of reasons one being screening. Yes we do have some very old pine trees that screen some of our view to the south. However some of these have recently been cut down and trimmed so we now have a view from our back deck to the south. We have no idea how long these trees will act as a screen as two have already started dying and we will soon have to cut those down as they are becoming dangerous.

Infigen I assume has got their information pertaining to tree screening through aerial surveillance as to our knowledge they have never been on our property, another example of Infigen not taking the time to properly consult the community. If we are considered close enough to put in their E.A. why didn't they have the common courtesy to contact us and 'consult' with us on the visual impacts to our property. One of the reasons we bought this property initially was the views that take your breathe away. We did not ever envisage 17 wind turbines would be part of that view. We also have fears as to what this visual impact will do to the value of our property when we go to sell. You only have to visit the Elders website and talk to local agents in Orange to know that a wind farm will have an impact on the value of our property.

My third concern is the cumulative effects of the project. In their chapter titled Cumulative effects part 17.4 'Other Industry in the Area', Infigen seem to almost dismiss Cadia mine as they are a different industry. 'As the activities of the mine and the wind farm are so different, it is considered that the Flyers Creek project has a negligible cumulative impact in conjunction with Cadia Mine's activities'.

They have obviously done no research on the impacts of the mine which in part are similar to the wind far.

1. Both will have lights at night.
2. Both will cause noise.

At our house, Newcrest have a noise monitor installed as the noise from the mine currently is very close to the threshold noise levels. Looking at the modelling on noise completed by Infigen we should not hear any noise from turbines at our house. I hope this is guaranteed as any extra industrial noise could risk going over the guideline noise levels. I have concerns for the families who live a little further south of us who also are impacted with the noise from Cadia Mine and will also be impacted by noise from the Flyers Creek Wind Farm.

Finally, I would just like to say I am against this project for the above reasons. I am also against the project because I can already see the stress it is putting on local families who are concerned about their futures. It is putting stress on our schools with families of pro & against families trying to stay civil to each other. It has divided local families and friends.

This is not the right area for a wind farm.

Thank you

