

## **FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM APPLICATION NO. MP08\_0252**

I wish to submit my objection to the above project. I am a resident living on Errowanbang Road near the Gap Road intersection. My family have a small farm which we have enjoyed for the past 12 years. My family have lived in the district for many generations dating back to the 1830's.

We have just come out the other side of a major drought, six or seven years of heartache. As we finally get the rain we have prayed for and the burden has been lifted, this major industrial project has come our way.

### **THE AREA**

The area around this project is beautiful, picturesque rolling hills. Magnificent country that we treasure. The area is scattered with a mixture of small hobby, lifestyle farm rural residences and larger pastoral rural properties. These turbines will be mixed right through the lot. It seems wherever there is a hill, the developer has put turbines on it, totally regardless of the proximity to homes.



We have the historical village of Carcoar nearby, a visit to this village is like going back to a time when bushrangers (Ben Hall) roamed our hills. Movies and television commercials have been made in this village. When this wind farm is built, almost all the turbines will be visible from this village. The charm will be lost.

### **THE VIEW**

In the submission for this wind farm, there are 30 pages of listed properties which will be visually affected by these turbines. The beautiful rural landscape will be ruined by this development. Any property owner anywhere whether urban or rural who is lucky enough to have a beautiful view, treasures it and would do all they can to protect it. To have it spoiled by 150m high turbines, visible from all over the district is nothing short of scandalous.



## THE NOISE

Although the developer has stated the noise problems don't exist (and why wouldn't they), there is documented evidence in Australia and right around the world that there **IS** a problem. There have been many families who have had to leave their homes because they can no longer live in them due to noise and health effects associated with that noise. This has been up to five kilometres away. People have literally walked away from their homes.

Measurement of wind turbine infrasound and low frequency sound needs to be performed by experienced acousticians who are completely independent of wind developers.

## THE ROADS

My property is situated on what the developer have classified as the main access road. From the Mid Western Highway, Errowanbang Road is just over two kilometres of tar before it becomes gravel. The Gap Road has approximately 500m of tar before it becomes gravel. Both these roads are narrow, potholed and completely unsuitable for any large traffic movement of trucks. I travel these roads every day and I can assure you that the roads are dangerous. A young man was killed only a few months ago on Gap Road, losing control on the gravel and overturning. There is barely enough room for two cars to pass and not enough room to pass a truck without moving onto the shoulder.

There is a considerable amount of traffic from the Cadia Gold Mine (4<sup>th</sup> largest gold mine in the world) and at shift change you take your life into your own hands travelling on these roads. This will only get worse as the mine expands.

Errowanbang and Gap Roads are not suitable for large truck movements. No matter what the developer would like you to think, without major roadworks (which Blayney Council have publicly said they cannot afford) this project should be stopped on these grounds alone. The developer has stated that "Infigen Energy will leave the roads as they found them". How they expect to do that after 12-18 months of heavy traffic volume defies belief.

## HEALTH ISSUES

The health issues associated with wind turbines are also well documented. The developer would like to deny this as well. Sleep deprivation, elevated blood pressure, headaches, dizziness, tinnitus, motion sickness, vertigo. These health issues cannot be ignored. They need to be addressed before this explosion of wind turbines continues unabated. There is an urgent need for independent medical, acoustic and scientific research looking at the currently constructed and operating wind farms in Australia before any more can be approved. The possibility of these health issues is frightening a lot of people around these proposed turbines.

## INDUSTRIALISATION

What other industry is allowed to set up in an area and potentially cause noise and health issues **24 hours a day, seven days a week** and the neighbouring properties just have to deal with it. How can this be allowed to happen. What has happened to our democratic rights. This area is zoned rural, the people in this area bought their properties knowing that the area was rural. How can it suddenly be allowed to become industrial.

We have a large gold mine (Cadia) which is rapidly expanding. We have another wind farm (15 turbines). Hasn't this area got its share of industry. This should be taken into account for this submission.

## **SENATE ENQUIRY**

A senate enquiry into wind farms has been held. The recommendations have been largely ignored by the State Government. Will this come back to haunt them in the future when (and not if) litigation happens. These matters need to be addressed now. There are around twelve wind farms approved but not yet commenced and another nineteen awaiting approval. That is thousands and thousands of wind turbines.

The State of Victoria have enforced a 2km buffer around the turbines. Obviously they think there is a problem. Why can't NSW follow their lead.

## **PROPERTY DEVALUATION**

It is well documented that properties around a wind farm devalue between 30 and 50%. Who would want to purchase a property knowing the issues associated with wind turbines. All the families who, like ourselves, have invested a lot of money in their homes are extremely worried. Homes and farms that people have been counting on for their retirement are at risk. Where else would this be allowed to happen, certainly not any of our capital cities. Certainly not Canberra or Sydney.

All neighbouring property owners are now in limbo. Not able to sell because no-one wants to buy, having to wait and see to what extent the development affects them. Extremely worried and concerned for their future health and financial security.

## **CONSULTATION**

The developer stated many times that there was considerable consultation with the community. I dispute this claim. The first we knew of this development was a flyer in our mail in November 2010 inviting us to an open day at Tallwood Hall. At this stage the project was well underway with wind turbine host properties having signed secrecy contracts as far back as 2008. We have had no other dealing with this developer.

If this project is so good for our area, as the developer claims, why was the project kept a secret. Why weren't the neighbouring properties informed of the potential development giving them time to sell their farms before it was too late. Why did it take two years for news of the project to come out in the open.

The way the developer handled this side of the project should be taken into account. They have shown an arrogance and disregard for the community's issues which is nothing short of scandalous.

The community is divided. The resentment towards the wind farm host property owners is huge and won't go away. The wonderful communities of Carcoar, Mandurama and Errowanbang have changed permanently.

## **WIND FARMS IN GENERAL**

Wind farms are a “feel good” renewable energy source. They are inefficient, they are hugely expensive and a big con. Relying on our Green/Labor Federal Government to throw money at them is the only thing that makes them viable.

Europe is now waking up to the wind farm debacle and building more coal and gas power stations. Unfortunately Australia never seems to be one step ahead, always making the same mistakes.

## **CONCLUSION**

If this wind farm project goes ahead, the decision will ruin a beautiful area, a wonderful community and make our area a no-go zone. The fact that this project has got this far is a really sad reflection of how we value our rural communities.

I realise that the decision has probably already been made. It’s just waiting for a rubber stamp. A State Government Department has no concept of how these projects affect communities, the 20% renewable target is all they see. What a shame for our beautiful countryside, ruined by these atrocious, ugly, 150m high monsters.

Please don’t allow this project go ahead.

***Julie and Ray Smith***  
***Carcoar***