

10. INDIGENOUS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Director-General's Requirements - the EA must:

1. include and assessment of the potential impact of the project components on indigenous values (archaeological and cultural);
2. demonstrate effective consultation with indigenous stakeholders during the assessment and in developing mitigation options (including the final recommended measures) consistent with *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, July 2005)

10.1 SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS

Indigenous and Cultural Heritage: Flyers Creek Wind Turbine Awareness Group (FCWTAG) objects to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm proposal:

- 10.1.1 The assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage is superficial and has dismissed requests by Aboriginal stakeholders for further surveys as not necessary.
- 10.1.2 The assessment of the non-Aboriginal cultural heritage has also been dismissed as irrelevant and of no significance ignoring the fact that the pastoral history, and associated historic villages and buildings form a vital part of the district's cultural and built past.

10.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE (TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND USE AND CULTURAL VALUES)

- 10.2.1 The Flyers Creek area is known to be home to the Waradjuri people as identified in the Environmental Assessment. The EA states that as a result of over 170 years of farming and mining only a very small portion of the study area remains relatively undisturbed. *Even so artefacts were found during the course of this assessment.* Whilst pastoral activities and mining have been a major activity in the area during recent history the study has revealed the remnants that remain today show there were sufficient resources historically to support a moderate-sized population of hunter-gathers.

- 10.2.2 After consultation (by FCWTAG) with some elderly landowners who have lived in the area for some time we have been shown a location that a member of our group (with training in Aboriginal identification) can identify as campsite remainders, which are an indication of regular seasonal occupation. We have been told that previously an Aboriginal named “Billy” would come and camp in this area under a tree that is approximately 200 years old and this area was previously used by a significant number of Aboriginals. This site would be approximately 4 kilometres from the edge of the proposed wind development area and while not in the wind farm development’s immediate area it confirms the existence of an Aboriginal population in this area.
- 10.2.3 The FCTWTAG has also been informed that the Wedge-tailed Eagle’s nest in the northern part of the wind farm development and is over one hundred years old has significance to Aboriginal Culture. This should be confirmed by Aboriginal Stakeholders.
- 10.2.4 We note in the EA that nine new Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified with 32 artefacts. Seven of the nine sites were assessed as being of low, or low to moderate archaeological potential, but the PADs are considered to be of high potential significance due to their rarity and possible research potential to provide new information.
- 10.2.5 Austral (Infigen’s consultants) confirmed that professional archaeologists view aesthetic significance as an attribute that can only be culturally determined by Aboriginal stakeholders. This has not been assessed as part of the EA.
- 10.2.6 The report submitted by Enid Clarke, Jirrah Freeman, Shawn Williams and Wayne Williams to Jonathan Upson on 10th November 2010, recommends that the area of the proposed wind development, and in the particular the area of the wind turbines and the transmission lines, be monitored by Aboriginal Stakeholders. This recommendation was made on their findings at the time of the field assessment when ground cover had very low to nil ground visibility due to high thick grass in the area. They also recommended that where artefacts were found that sub surface investigation or test pitting be done.
- 10.2.7 This wide spread monitoring and subsurface investigation requested by Enid Clarke, Jirrah Freeman, Shawn Williams and Wayne Williams *is considered not necessary*.
- 10.2.8 **Questions to be addressed:**
- 1. Why are the recommendations of Enid Clarke, Jirrah Freeman, Shawn Williams and Wayne Williams considered not necessary?*

This is their Aboriginal heritage and this area has not been surveyed previously. There is only this one opportunity to do this otherwise Aboriginal heritage values could be lost forever in this area.

2. The EA has made eight recommendations to follow in regard to Aboriginal Heritage. Is there a guarantee that these will be followed?

3. Can Infigen Energy guarantee that work crews will be trained to recognise Aboriginal remnants and artefacts, and items of significance to cultural and heritage values? The very fact that sites have now been recorded suggests that further consideration should be given to endeavouring to preserve whatever is left of our areas Aboriginal culture.

4. Will the work crews have consideration for Aboriginal items of significance? The methodology used for the field assessment attempted to provide flexibility in response to onsite conditions and stakeholder and Client requirements. *Reference 11-3*

5. The field assessment was about finding out about Aboriginal heritage and protecting what is there, nothing to do with catering to Infigen's requirements, so why would the methodology used want to manipulate what is fact to suit the client's requirements? Once destroyed, culture and heritage can never be replaced.

10.3 NON ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ISSUES

10.3.1 The Flyer Creek area has an important rich pastoral history and mining history dating back over 150 years.

10.3.2 William Lawson played an enormous part in the early settlement and exploration of the new country west of the Blue Mountains. Lawson was the leader of the party, (Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson) that crossed the mountains. Farming in the Bathurst area thrived under Lawson's command. Lawson himself became one of the largest stock owners west of the mountains and a front running pastoralist in his time.

10.3.3 Little evidence remains today of Lawson's rural empire with one exception, "Old Errowanbang" and its significant homes, out buildings and woolshed which are heritage listed. This sits in a lush rural valley that will be surrounded by turbines if the Flyers Creek Wind Farm proposal is approved.

10.3.4 It was in the time of William Lawson and William the Younger that the pastoral history of the area commenced. Other pastoral properties (in the immediate area of the proposed FCWF) had an interrelationship that marks them as a group of their

own. These properties “Errowanbang”, “Old Errowanbang”, “Millamolong”, “Sunny Ridge”, “Avonside”, “Willow Park”, “Cooramilla”, “Trevlyn”, and the locality of

Browns Creek have played a significant role in the pastoral history of this area, enough so that people have written books about it. This area was obviously the back bone of the pastoral industry of our state, as is evident by the large number of significant wool sheds documented and the wool trail that went through the valley to the Spring Hill area and Carcoar so that the wool could be transported to Sydney by rail.

10.3.5 Each of the properties above has their own history but the EA prepared for Infigen on FCWF states:

“No buildings within the project area have been identified as having any heritage significance.”

This position should be re-visited as the rural history is significant to this area.

10.3.6 “Willow Park” still has plenty of evidence that points to its origins as part of the original “Errowanbang Holding” owned by the Lawson Family. When Arthur Roweth took possession he built a slab cottage which stands to this day behind the homestead. There is still evidence on this property of the ‘water race’ constructed by Chinese labour to supply water to the mines at Burnt Yards. This amazing piece of engineering carried water for miles. The property also hosts a significant woolshed of value.

10.3.7 The “Errowanbang” Wool Shed (Hopkins Shed) was erected in 1913. The current owners took the courageous step of investing in the future of this great old building and converting it into their home. The restoration of the wool shed has been designed to retain its history, like the “Ferrier” wool press still standing in all its historical glory, in the centre of the lounge room. This form of restoration is a wonderful form of preservation that is able to turn an historic wool shed into a unique home, retaining the character of the old shed.

10.3.8 “Trevlyn” Wool Shed, Beneree: This property adjoins “Wallaby” and will be significantly impacted by the wind turbines that will be erected on “Wallaby”. This wool shed has significant value to the pastoral heritage of this area, along with the old homes that are also part of its pastoral heritage. This shed has continued to be used on a regular basis.

10.3.9 “Avonside” also rich in pastoral history and has a wool shed.

10.3.10 “Cooramilla” Wool Shed of great historical significance .

10.3.11 Other properties within the 5 kilometre radius with either significant (and in some cases heritage listed) homes and/or shearing sheds are “Coombing Park”, “Sunny Ridge”, “Sunny Downs”, “Stokefield”, “Highfield”, “Millamolong”, “Wongalong”,

“Angullong”. These are just a few of the properties involved or adjoining the proposed FCWF all with a rich pastoral heritage that host significant buildings relevant to the history of this area.

10.3.12 The historic village of Carcoar (the whole village is heritage listed) lies 5 kilometres from the wind farm development area. The village is a regular destination for tourists and provides an exceptional experience for visitors. Apart from the extraordinary assemblage of Victorian architecture and associated buildings, Carcoar takes its history from the pastoral and mining activities that were so formative to its character. The agricultural landscape is pivotal to its context. The visual blight of 44 turbines on its doorstep would severely impinge on this. From a purely practical point of view the local economy is better served by a thriving tourist industry than it is by the mere 3 full time workers Infigen state will be employed once the wind turbine complex is operational.

10.3.12 Mining has been a great part of the history of this area and allowed the area to prosper at different times. It is part of the historical character of this area.

10.3.13 There is little doubt when you stand in the Flyers Creek area that you stand in the middle of our early Australian rural and mining history and this should not be sacrificed to this major industrial wind development that will damage the character of our cultural heritage and the future of pastoral activities.



Figure 10.1: Sketch map of location of historical properties in Flyers Creek area – not to scale



Figure 10.2 Historic village of Carcoar

Source Materials:

Local landowners

Email from Enid Clarke, Jirrah Freeman, Wayne Williams, Shawn Williams to Jonathan Upson 10 November, 2010

“Wool Sheds The Anvils that Forged a Nation” by Russell Moor

Waradjuri Websites.