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December 18th, 2011

Mr. Tony Philps,
Department of Planning,
23-33 Bridge Street,
SYDNEY
NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

**RE: FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
PROPOSAL BY INFIGEN ENERGY
Your ref: MP08 0252**

I refer to the Environmental Assessment publicised by the Department of Planning concerning the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm and your request for submissions about this development.

Firstly, I would like to say in the strongest terms that, as both a doctor and as a resident of this district, that I totally oppose the construction and subsequent operation of this completely inappropriate industrialisation of our wonderful countryside. I object to the way our previously cohesive community has been dismembered by Infigen Energy. Community consultation has been minimal at best and deceptive at worst. From a medical point of view it is distressing to see people becoming worried and depressed as the prospect of 44 wind turbines being built, and the various protracted uncertainties attendant upon it have not assisted this situation.

Secondly, I have serious doubts about the manner in which Infigen will conduct itself during the construction process. Capital Wind Farm is owned and operated by Infigen and it seemed appropriate to avail myself of their experiences. I have also looked at the Capital Wind Farm EIS which at times looks remarkably like the Flyers Creek Wind Farm EA, particularly Vipac's noise impact assessment reports of 2006.

Residents have advised that during the course of construction they were frequently disturbed by noise associated with the construction, despite assurances in the EIS.

Residents identified that there were breaches of time restrictions that were nominated in the EIS and also on the consent issued by the Department of Planning.

Residents have advised that the Department took no action in relation to breaches of time restrictions to construction, or the obvious breaches of the noise levels that were giving rise to significant disturbance.

Similarly in relation to the electrical substation the Vipac report would appear to be a direct cut and paste of the Capital Wind Farm that has been submitted in relation to Flyers Creek, with the exception of identifying different residential receivers. However two residents have indicated significant noise disturbance from the substation at Capital when the modelling performed by Vipac indicated they would be unaffected.

Clearly the principal issue of concern in relation to the wind farm for residents in the vicinity of Capital Wind Farm is the noise impact from the wind farm itself.

Residents report situations where, under certain propagation conditions, they feel their residences vibrate. They can clearly hear the turbines operating through the night and some have reported headaches and continuous pulsations, or vibrations, which they feel in their body.

Residents have identified that under temperature inversion conditions which occur most frequently in winter that there is a dramatic increase in the noise impact from the wind farm. If there is a noise exceedance it would logically be under these conditions.

Testing by Vipac has not elucidates any noise exceedance, but there are issues of monitor placement, times of monitoring (no testing appears to have been done during the winter), suggestions that any noise heard emanates from the highway 20 kilometres away etc.

I am aware that The Acoustic Group have conducted noise tests with respect to houses in the proximity of Capital Wind Farm. This has revealed non-compliance with the conditions of consent and significant real world noise levels that do not equate to those suggested in their modelling. There is an elevation of audible noise above the limits set. There is also significant low frequency noise and infrasound detected – something Infigen has strenuously denied is occurring – although since it appears that infrasound is never measured it is difficult to know how they can be so sure.

Excessive audible noise and infrasound can cause serious health impacts. This is well documented in the peer reviewed literature which I have studied in depth and with great interest. The case histories from many of the wind farms in Australia, and indeed internationally, indicate serious health sequelae for a significant segment of the population. Like many health issues not everyone is affected equally but it is well documented that many people are. This is a public health issue and one I am disappointed to find that our public health personnel are failing to address.

From a medical point of view I therefore have great concerns about the installation of increasing numbers of wind turbines of an increasing size. It is also documented that the larger the turbines the more they are likely to create increasing levels of infrasound, something borne out by the testing performed by The Acoustic Group.

By allowing ever increasing numbers of large wind turbines to proliferate the NSW Government (and other state governments) are complicit in facilitating conditions of noise that cause distress, ill health, and dislocation of families and community. Surely this cannot

be allowed to continue unquestioned! I certainly do not care to see repeated the experiences of Capital Wind Farm (and others) on our community of Flyers creek.

At the very least the Government of NSW must call for:

1. A moratorium on the approval and construction of any new wind turbine complexes until –
2. Independent, medical research has been undertaken and peer-reviewed (independent but financed by the wind industry who are already making considerable profits at the community's expense), thus invoking –
3. The precautionary principle.

The NSW Government risks the displeasure of much of the rural population if it continues to impose industrial (and mining) industries upon it without its consent and without any consideration given to its health, welfare and community values. There is a rising sentiment that the rural communities should not be made hostage to the vagaries of renewable energy policies (at the behest of city based Australian who do not have to suffer the impacts of such policies) that, on examination, are not profitable unless they are heavily subsidised by taxpayer finances.

I therefore wish my objections noted and taken into consideration. There is much to lose and little to gain by giving any consent to operate to Infigen and its Flyers Creek Wind Farm proposal.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan C. Watts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan C. Watts OAM

