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18 December 2011

Mr Toby Philip
Senior Planning Officer
NSW Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Ref: Submission with regards to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm (Application MP08-0252)

Dear Mr Philip

The planning application is supported.

Electricity Generation

Wind is an environmentally sustainable method of generation of electricity. There needs to be progress in renewable energy options and wind farms are one way we can look to the future to provide a sustainable clean option. The country can no longer rely on a finite resource for electricity generation long term. We need to look past today and consider options for the future.

Location

Wind farms, like mines, must be located where the resource is available. The wind recordings show good results in the Flyers Creek area. Like Cadia mine it is not possible to choose the location but rather the resource location determines where the development should occur.

Visual

Wind turbines are not unpleasant to view. There is history of wind turbines in the area and those in Carcoar have become part of the landscape which scarcely raises comment. The wind turbines blend with the natural vegetation. The visual effect of a wind farm is far less than other developments in the area. In some areas the turbines have become a tourist attraction.

Health

There appears to be a fear campaign regarding the health effects of turbines. By saying something often or reading it on the internet does not make it true. Any health issues must be confirmed by scientific research by reputable organisations.

Employment

The wind farm will provide employment in the area. This would be more significant in the construction stage but would continue to a lesser extent for the life of the project. This would contribute to the variety of employment opportunities available in the area.

Roads

Roads in general in the shire are in poor condition. It would be unreasonable to expect more from this development than others in relation to upgrades and maintenance of existing roads. The mine traffic and splitting of larger rural properties into smaller blocks has significantly contributed to the deterioration of roads.

Rural Land Use

The development is proposed in a rural area. Rural areas are business by nature and not residential developments. Those choosing to live in this area ratepayers are aware that there is business being undertaken on surrounding farms or by mining in the area. This rural area is a mixture of rural businesses, mining site, mining associated businesses, contactors, mine workers living temporarily in the area and absentee rural landowners.

Rural Business Options

Farmers owning the land should have some right in the say in the use of their land. This will bring financial benefit to the landholders involved and may solve drought and succession planning issues for those involved. Indications of recent sales show that property values are not adversely affected as record prices were obtained by recent sales.

Combined Business Affect

The development should be considered on its own merit for impact on the community as far as noise, traffic etc and not as a combined effect with the mine that is subject to its own development consent. This is an independent development and the fact that there is also a mine in the area is not a reason to refuse the development. The idea that the combined effect should be considered is inappropriate for a merit decision.

Community

This development does not displace any existing residents; no significant agricultural land is taken so impact on the community is not likely to be detrimental. While there is a vocal minority opposed to the development there are many local residents in support of the development. At a local council run public meeting it was difficult to provide a balanced view due to the personal attacks, interruption and bullying by some in a small group of opposed to the development.

A signed copy is available on request

Regards

Dimity and Robert McKenzie