

ECCO orange

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Mr Tony Philp
NSW Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge St. Sydney, NSW 2000

ECCO submission in support of the flyers' Creek wind farm.

Dear Mr. Wilcox,
Our submission supports the development of the proposed Flyers' Creek wind farm for the following reasons:

Renewable energy is the future: The recent climate change conference in Durban resulted in another step towards a global commitment to reducing greenhouse gases. It is acknowledged that to do this we must move away from the use of fossil fuels to methods of producing energy which are clean and green. Wind power is obviously part of the renewable mix.

- ▲ *As by far the fastest growing source of renewable energy globally, wind power is widely used and understood, and the technology is proven and ready for implementation.*
- ▲ *Both major parties federally have made billions of dollars of commitments to regional renewables.*

Australia will be implementing a carbon tax in 2012. Part of the revenue derived there from will be directed towards the development of large scale renewable energy projects such as the Flyers' Creek wind farm.

To avoid dangerous levels of global warming we must phase out the use of fossil fuels and convert to sources of pollution free renewable energy. The Flyers' Creek wind farm provides our community with an opportunity to contribute to this conversion.

- ▲ *Wind power is already saving consumers money on electricity bills. See www.renewablessa.sa.gov.au/files/101007-wind-power-and-prices.pdf*

Employment opportunities: The development of a wind farm of the proposed magnitude of Flyers' Creek will require the involvement of significant numbers of personnel at the siting, development, construction and maintenance phases of the project. Renewable energy projects are well documented as providing opportunities for employment for regional Australia. Flyers Creek is no exception.

- ▲ *Similar sized wind farms have these employment benefits*
<http://www.acciona.com.au/businessDivisions/energy/projects/allendaleWindfarm/>

Other regional centres have wind farms: Regional centres such as Daylesford in Victoria have successfully embraced wind farms as a source of renewable energy without undue mishap. Wind farms have been operating successfully at Crookwell and elsewhere in the Southern Highlands and have been accepted by local residents as part of community infrastructure. Indeed Blayney and district residents have had a wind farm at Carcoar as “part of the furniture for years.

✦ **Similar sized wind farms have these regional benefits**

<http://www.aciona.com.au/businessDivisions/energyprojects/allendaleWindfarm/>

Opportunities for investment: Infagen Energy has proposed the creation of a community co-operative in order to give the community opportunities to invest in clean renewable energy. The carbon tax will make renewables more competitive, therefore more profitable, thus making such investment an attractive proposition.

A chance to negotiate for mutual benefit: Blayney has successfully negotiated with Newcrest mines for some years to the benefit of both organisations. Infagen Energy is another large scale organisation which has the potential to confer benefits on the Blayney community in the same manner that Newcrest mining has.

In conclusion: The Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange see in the Flyers' Creek Wind farm an opportunity for the Blayney and wider community to become involved in an energy future which is clean and environmentally responsible. We believe that wind energy will become an important component of the energy mix which will eventually phase out fossil fuels. Flyers Creek wind farm provides us with the opportunity to become involved in an exciting clean energy future.

Neil Jones
President, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange