

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM SUBMISSION

Application MP08-0252

Mr. Toby Philp,
Senior Planning Officer,
NSW Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000.

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

Dear Mr. Philp,

We request that our personal details are not disclosed to the proponent, the public or any other government department.

We do NOT support this project.

Right from the beginning the process was selective and secretive. The first meeting which was arranged by Infigen Energy was not a public meeting. It was by invitation. Neighbouring property owners knew nothing about the project. As they were affected, they were rightly very upset that they were not advised.

That first meeting was biased in favour of the project. Anyone who wanted to raise objections or enquiries which might adversely affect the project was stifled.

During the Senate enquiry, several down to earth, genuine people shared how the turbines had affected their health to such an extent that they had to walk off their farms. Headaches and sleeplessness had them in such a state they had no alternative. I do not know if the same will happen to me, but it could because I have very sensitive hearing. Once the turbines are there, they are there to stay. We don't want to have to walk off our farm. We were here first and we enjoy the peaceful countryside.

In the beginning we were cautiously in agreement with the project, but we didn't know anything much about wind farms as they were a new idea here. The only reason we signed the lease was so we could negotiate a turbine being moved further away from our house than the proposed 500 metres. It is now 1 kilometre from our house, but that could still be too close. We have heard about vibrations (infrasound) which can travel along rock formations under the turbine up into the house and drive you mad. At the time, the drought was affecting the farming community in the district and this had an influence on farmers signing up as they were offered instant financial rewards.

We attended a meeting where Dr Sarah Laurie told us many of her patients were affected by the turbines. She seemed very genuine. She said she was just telling us of what her patients had experienced – severe health problems because they lived near wind turbines.

We will have one turbine one kilometre from our house. It will be huge. I am concerned about the size of the turbine and I think I will feel uncomfortable with a huge blade swinging over my house. I am worried that the swishing noise will keep me awake at night. I already have trouble sleeping at night without a regular mechanical noise. So we could get an idea what they sound like, we travelled to Wonthaggi to hear the wind turbines there. They were the biggest ones we could get to but they were still not as huge as the ones proposed here, and we could still hear them swishing 2

kilometres away. The sound gets to you because it is consistent and never varies. Natural sounds like the wind are not consistent, so the sound doesn't worry you.

We will be surrounded by at least 10 visible wind turbines all around the hills to the north, east and south of our house. The noise could be significant coming down to our house from the surrounding hills.

We will get blade flicker in the evenings when we like to sit on our verandah and watch the sun setting.

Another reason I am against the project is that it has divided our community. Our neighbours said "didn't you think to ask us what we thought about having huge turbines or sub-stations near our homes?" They have moved here for the lifestyle. They wish for a pleasant place to live. They like the unspoilt views and the peace and quiet of the rural countryside. What's wrong with that? Nothing. That is also what we wish for and what we had until this project came up. I don't want to upset my neighbours. I respect their wishes. I don't want their lifestyle threatened.

The contract we were given was long and written in legal language that no-one could understand. I know several farmers who said they signed it but didn't have time to read it and they couldn't understand it. They were put under a certain amount of pressure to sign.

I am concerned that the roads to the turbines will cause erosion. Who will maintain them? There will be interruption to our farming and grazing and we do not want our livestock disturbed. This is especially critical during certain times -- e.g. during lambing and calving.

The underground power lines are proposed for places where it would be unnecessarily costly and time consuming to install. This company has no idea what the topography is like. No-one has come to look at the gullies. They are just going by maps.

The area where we have agreed to a turbine is rough terrain which is inaccessible by land and the only way to control weeds and spread fertilizer is by air. When I asked the question at one of the meetings if it would be a hindrance for aircraft, I was told the pilots would like the extra challenge. I now know that pilots are not allowed to fly anywhere near the turbines. This is why I do not want a turbine in our rough country. There are also overhead powerlines proposed for our property which would also prohibit aerial spraying. This would severely compromise weed control on our property.

Our local council roads are already in a very bad state of disrepair, narrow, winding and dangerous. When approached, Council advises there is no money for improvement. The roads are in no condition to carry existing traffic, let alone huge trucks transporting machinery of this massive size and weight. There are 44 turbines proposed, each 150 metres high, 37 kilometres of access roads, 33 kilometres of underground cabling, as well as overhead power lines for connection to the electricity substation, plus one from the substation to Cadia mine.

There will be 26 houses and a primary school within one and a half kilometres of one or more turbines. Our house will have 6 turbines within this distance. After the recent court case in South Australia, this distance is inadequate.

Sincerely,

