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Submission to DPI & E

RE Rye Park Wind Farm – Modification 1 SSD-6693 Mod 1 – Tip Height Increase

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Rye Park Wind farm proposed by TILT Renewables. We do not make any donations to any political parties nor are members of any political group. We are local community members recently retired educators now becoming viticulturists on our 53-acre block. We are happy for our submission to be included in any public report etc.

From the outset we wish to state clearly that we are supporters of renewable energy programs and particularly energy programs that use solar and wind sources but we do hold the following **concerns** and ask for your consideration of these in your deliberations.

1. We live approximately 6km from the nearest planned turbine. Looking at the new plan we estimate that we will have 30 towers from the Rye Park Farm and another 12 or so towers from the Bango Wind farm constantly in view with no forests or natural barriers between. We live on the top of a rise and will have a 210 degree view of wind turbines constantly with no considerations either financial or physical blockers to compensate for that level of saturation. The accumulation effect of the two wind farms will definitely impact on our quality of life, property value and mental health. The increase in tower and blade height will impact even further on this panorama that will become our lives. We therefore cannot accept the increase in height.
2. It is our understanding that at the end of the life of the wind farm the owners are to return the site to its original condition. We believe that the towers and blades are made from non-recyclable materials. We also understand that the foundation concrete works will not be removed. We find these facts quite in opposition to the aim of a renewable energy project when the massive amount of materials used in construction will become a part of "dump". The increase in size of the turbines simply adds to this frustrating aspect of the wind farm.
3. We appreciate the process for authentic Aboriginal consultation in the processes for both the original and modified plans. The half of the Wind Farm closer to Rye Park is primarily on Wiradjuri land and as far as we can see the consultations that have taken place have been only with Ngunawahl. We appreciate the difficulty with no local Wiradjuri based Lands Council available to make comment on the plans and that no Wiradjuri individuals came forward to comment. The process communication does leave a lot to be desired and perhaps adverts in Koori Mail or similar could increase the level of true consultation.

- a. This consultation concern is complicated further by the lack of acknowledgement of the Pudman Aboriginal Reserve. This camp was home to many Aboriginal people, some of whom are alive today and see this piece of land as their birthright, their traditional home, their family burial and birth site. The gas pipeline construction noted this and made sure all of their dealings in this area was through underground tunneling that did not leave any impact on what could be termed “sacred land”. A comment from the initial consultation to the fact that Aboriginal burials took place around the reserve was “there are no headstones therefore no burials” is an insult to a way of life and a way of processing death by the local Aboriginal community when living a traditional life on reserves such as Pudmans. .
 - b. We would ask that the modified plans increase in access size is strictly limited in the areas of Aboriginal habitation and that true Wiradjuri consultation take place. Mrs. Elma Pearsall is a living member of the Pudman Reserve community and her voice should be heard in the consultation process.
4. We completely disagree with the comments made by the Modified Plan re the condition of Rye Park Road. Our only link to Boorowa is a very poor second-rate country road that has a skim of tar sheeting. The many sections that have not been retarred recently are made up completely of pothole repairs joined together to make a thin sheet that comes apart even when a tractor travels on the road. Our concerns are
 - a. The road will not take the weight of the planned movements. The damage caused will create a daily hazard for our trips into Boorowa, Yass and Gunning. Will the wind farm cover the costs of broken windscreen and dented car panels?
 - b. Many of our Rye Park Community are aged. My mother in law lives with us and is 96. She requires regular, fortnightly blood transfusions and we are concerned that the need to get her to hospital either by car or ambulance will be compromised by the extensive vehicle traffic and more concerning the slow rate of travel during the large truck movements.
 - c. During the periods of the monolithic vehicles travelling along our road how are we to travel safely between our local towns, are overtaking lanes being constructed, are layouts planned, will every vehicle have a police escort, what will be the delay in my trip to local townships for shopping, medical issues, etc. Will the speed limit be dropped so my trips take even longer? Who will compensate us for the damage to our driveways, front gates etc. caused by vibrations and vehicles using our layoff areas to get around these enormous vehicles? Smaller towers will create less road issues.
 - d. The purchase of land at both Boorowa and Rye Park to facilitate turning areas on tight corners for these trucks has been commented on publicly by TILT. The inference being that land owners have agreed to the purchase. This is not the case, far from

it !!! What is the back up plan for vehicle access if landowners refuse to sell?

- e. The new Dirt Hole Creek bridge will create many months of delay for our trip to work, to doctors, to shopping etc. What processes are in place to eliminate any time delay in our communities travel time due to bridge building? The bridge serves our community well; it is safe, does not go underwater and does not need replacing! If it were not for the expected trucks planned to deliver the towers and blades then no bridge works would be needed.
5. We appreciate this opportunity to flag our concerns in the process. Our issue in this regard is to the lack of communication to our affected communities regarding the Modification to Plan. The three-week Exhibition stage is grossly inadequate for true authentic community consultation especially when our local community was not targeted to be given advance warning of the very short and inadequate consultation phase. A letter drop would have been a far more appropriate method then those put in place that depended on us finding information online or through limited news releases in city publications.

This consultation process was further hindered by very poor access to the DPI&E Submission process being extremely difficult to navigate both from an end user perspective (many Rye Park residents are aged and don't have computer access or abilities) and a cumbersome website error message constantly stopping many community members from Creating an Account. A cynical view could be that the process of submission was made difficult to reduce community concerns and true input.

In summary we believe in renewable energy and are happy to share in the pain of gaining this environmental success, but how much pain does one property have to bear when other members of our wider community have no impacts whatsoever? Having to live with 40 + wind turbines constantly in view with increased sizes is more then the average Australian would have to put up with. Our roads will not cope with the heavy traffic. True Aboriginal consultation with locals and Wiradjuri has not taken place. The lack of legislation to ensure all materials are recyclable at the end of the life of the towers is a massive concern. The consultation periods and communication to those directly involved has been poorly handled.

We look forward to your responses

Regards

Brian and Donna Giles-Browne