

Patrina Langfield
4067 Dalton Road
RYE PARK NSW 2586

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Director-General
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW, 2001

Dear Sir

Re: Rye Park Wind Farm Project Application

I am writing to make a submission in response to the Rye Park Wind Farm Project Application.

I am strongly opposed to latest submission for this project for the following reasons:

Location of Main Entrance:

Our drive way will now be located 200 metres from the preferred site access, access batching plant and site offices. We have never been contacted by anyone from Till Renewables to advise us of this new development and the implications it may have for our property.

My sister catches the school bus at the entrance to our driveway and has to cross the road and wait on the other side of the road to get on the bus. Having the main site access 200 metres makes me very worried as cars already fly past whilst shes wait for the bus but should this go ahead, the amount of traffic will considerably more (and from both ways). What if someone going to the site does not see her standing there and hits her with their vehicle or runs into the school bus as it stops to pick her up? This seems a very dangerous situation to place on school children and the school bus.

Increased Road Traffic:

Whilst Till Renewables are advocating for all the extra work these wind farms will generate, this also creates much more traffic on our country road which are not built for level or amount of traffic flow. There will be workers travelling from both Boorowa and Yass and this will mean a huge increase in the risk of accidents on these roads. Unfortunately people tend to speed on this road and given the condition of these roads, it will be tragedy waiting to happen.

The local school bus also stops regularly from Rye Park Township all the way along this road and into Yass. Children stand on the side of the road to catch the bus which is currently safe as the roads are quiet, but suddenly have trades, delivery trucks, staff also travelling on the roads at the same time these children are catching the bus again is a grave risk which has to be considered.

Some of the houses in Rye Park are only 4m from the current road edge. The noise and vibration from all this traffic will make living and working in these places impossible. The Rye Park Bushfire Brigade shed is also on the main street of Rye Park. How will they travel to the places they need to be in a bushfire if the roads are closed or busy with windfarm vehicles and machinery? The school is also on the main street. How will all the traffic noise disrupt the children's learning?

Visual Impact

Our property will be approximately 3 kilometres from the closest turbines according to the maps and we are now 200 metres away from the Preferred Site Access, Site Offices and Batching Plants.

The revised submission now has the turbines height at 200 metres and there is absolutely nothing we can do to try and screen them from our property (existing gum trees which grow to an average of 20 metres in height will look like flowers in the paddock in comparison with these structures).

Unfortunately if this application goes ahead, the beautiful view we now enjoy will be destroyed.

My other concern with the visual impact these massive structures will have is that they will be a huge distraction to drivers on the road. The road from the corner of Cooks Hill Road to our property is an absolute disgrace. We have to not only be vigilant with our driving on a gravel road which is corrugated and filled with pot holes, but also be ready for any kangaroos which jump out. At 200 metres in height these turbines will dominate the landscape and cause an immediate distraction on stretch of road which is dangerous at the best times.

Cumulative Impact

Consideration has to be given Bango Wind Farm which is currently under construction.

Should the Rye Park Project also be successful, this small country area will be surrounded by masses of turbines.

This situation would result in our property being situated in the middle of both the Rye Park Wind Farm and the Bango Wind Farm – therefore we will be surrounded on both sides by these turbines (Rye Park on the front approximately 3kms from our house and Bango on the back side also approximately 3kms from our house).

Land Management

We are greatly concerned about the impact this Wind Farm will have on land in the area. New access roads will have to be built to access the turbines therefore disturbing the natural balance of the land. Water courses will be disrupted with the strong possibility that storms will cause erosion, therefore causing muddiness in dams and streams. New drainage systems may even divert water from existing catchments and stop stock water dams from filling. Again our property is to be located 1.2 kilometres from the batching plant so we are extremely concerned what effect this could have on natural water bodies in the area.

Bushfire Management

The land surrounding parts of this Wind Farm is comprised of thick dense scrub. Should a bushfire break out it is not safe for fire trucks to go into these areas as they may get trapped by the fire. The safest alternative is to use water bombing aircraft.

At 200m in height, should these turbines go ahead, we will not be able to use these planes to water bomb and therefore be putting our fire fighters at grave danger and risk immense loss of property/stock should a bush fire break out.

As these Turbines are going to be built so close to existing residences, surely Bush Fire Safety has to be of upmost importance – let's consider the devastating bushfire season we have just endured in Australia.

Ecology

I do not believe reducing the amount of turbines to 80 will do anything to stop the damage to the ecology in the area.

Building access roads and clearing land for these turbines to be built will mean the removal of thousands of trees. This has a chain reaction as there are a number of animals who rely on this vegetation.

Also with 80 turbines operating in such a condensed area, how many birds will be innocently killed when they come into their path?

Damage to Local Roads

The Boorowa/Rye Park road is a country road not a highway and is in poor condition at the best of times. It is a narrow road with barely enough bitumen to allow two cars to pass each other let alone the massive

machinery required to bring in these structures. The road is not strong enough to withstand the high amount of heavy machinery which will be required to get this wind farm operating plus the huge amount of increased traffic from trades, delivery vehicles and staff.

Community Engagement

The lodging of the modification documents in view of the public movement restrictions due to COVID19 is vastly unfair to the local community. The following should be noted:

- The proposal is 1378 pages and we have been allowed 3 weeks to read and make comment, with no extension being allowed. Why is it such a rush to do this during the COVID crisis when no hard copies of the documents could be provided (what about people in the area who do not have access to a computer?)
- The expectation that residents will download the documents when download speeds are slow and GB allowances limited in rural areas. We have approximately 8GB allowance for the month at a cost of \$65.
- Many, many residents have not made aware of the modifications to the approved project and the impact they will have on the village because public meetings have not been and due to COVID19 now cannot be held. This relates especially to the facts that the height increase means 19 turbines with the equivalent height of 60 story buildings will tower over the village but also from the main street it is projected that they will see 55 to 60 turbine hubs and even more blades. Also that the main route for the oversized vehicles carrying heavy equipment as well as turbine blades and turbine generators is straight through the heart of the village.
- [REDACTED] the Department of Planning stated they put notices in the Sydney Morning Herald, The Telegraph and 'a local paper' but could not name which one. Very few people in this area access those papers and, during 'lockdown', even fewer. No one we have spoken to saw these notifications. In a small community the village residents who will be most affected have to collect their mail from the post office in the village as there is no door-to-door mail delivery. Therefore, in order that the majority of people were made aware, a notification should have been sent to the post office. The fact that this was not done demonstrates a lack of understanding of the differences between town and country.
- I believe both the Department of Planning and Tilt Renewables are taking advantage of the COVID19 crisis to ensure residents are not given proper notice, information or time to be informed and place submissions. This is an absolute disgrace and shows how little the Department of Planning cares to ensure the people who will be impacted by this project are informed and have the knowledge and time to put together a proper argument to stop this.

Summary

This is a beautiful bush area and it will be an absolute tragedy to destroy the landscape by such a massive amount of turbines. Should this application go ahead they will dominate the landscape, change the natural balance of the land and all the properties relying on it, destroy country roads and cause huge risks to residents who travel on them, potentially effect the value of 200 dwellings, interfere with fire- fighting ability in the area and see the destruction of approximately 600 acres of prime timber country.