

I object to this Major Modification to the Yass Valley Wind Farm -Coppabella (South) Precinct

We are non confrontational , modest, elderly farmers having lived on this property for 59 years, and this project has affected the plans of three generations. During all those years we have been completely committed to every organisation in our small local community. This situation would have to be the most devastating and distressing project in that time, dividing a formerly close village community.

We have submitted letters to Federal, State and Local Governments since 2010; with rarely a reply. In 2013 a legally conducted survey was held in the Bookham, Binalong, Black Range and Berremangra area, resulting in 70% opposed ;14% unsure and 16% supportive, a contrast to claims made by the then Proponents Epuron. This survey was ignored.

As the plan so validly granted approval by PAC on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 is no longer relevant :

We request the removal of 10 Turbines No. 73,74,75,76,77,78,79 & 80 and the 33kv overhead reticulation line in the Yass Valley Council and Turbines 81 and 82 in the Hilltop Regional Council, all impacting on residence C06 also on C60 and the devaluation of our property "Kia-Ora"; "Glen iris" and " Tralee ". The removal of these Turbines would negate the use of the Whitefield Road as the access road; eliminating the removal of native trees and destroying native habitat.

DISMAY & DISBELIEF : In 2012, THE Proponents Epuron presented a map showing where they WOULD be constructing the access road through our property, this road would be 300metres from residence C06 and through a Department of Agriculture Trial site (developed at that time 2012 for 16 years) and recording State wide information.

DISHONESTY: Proponents Epuron, presenting INCORRECT photomontages to the Consultant and the Department ignoring this DISHONESTY. The Department of Planning had concerns with Turbines No 73-79 on residences C06, C60 and others and suggested if they were removed it would be of benefit to C67 ( outspoken and effective Chair of YLG) Proponents quickly 'silenced' C67, now known as involved! The Consultant requested photomontages of the Turbines of concern, the Proponents presented photomontages taken from another direction. The Department continues to ignore this BLATENT DISHONESTY.

DISCRIMINATION: The discrimination shown to our family throughout this situation has been UNACCEPTABLE. We have never been consulted by the Proponents (Epuron) with the exception of the visit in 2012 with the access road map), the DPE, PAC or the Consultant, although residence C06 is the only residence within 2 kms. of the entire Coppabella Wind Farm structure.

When this project was proposed in 2009, the entire project was called the Yass Valley Wind Farm as it was in 2015 when the Department concluded the project was NOT in the public interest and should be refused. However, in February 2016, unbeknown to many the project was divided and the Department recommended to PAC to only approve the western portion and refuse the eastern Marilba/Gap Range Precinct, as we, the western precinct could COPE with the VISUAL, NOISE and HEALTH IMPACTS.

To now be aware the PAC had received a warning from the Auditor General as they had an Apparent Breach of Code of Conduct issue and the Department have acknowledged the people working externally for them do not have the relevant expertise to make such decisions is even more distressing for our family and other impacted neighbours.

DEVALUING: In January 2015, when we were informed the entire project had been refused. As part of 'succession planning' we purchased the neighbouring subdivided property. On the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the front page of the Yass Tribune informed us the project had been re-referred, without any CONSULTATION the PAC approved the Coppabella Precinct on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. The newly purchased property would now be devalued by 30-50%; as would our entire property. The Department representative stated at a meeting at the Crisp Gallery in 2014 'any property next to a Wind Farm would be almost unsaleable'

DECOMMISSIONING: There must be a MORATORIUM on all WIND FARMS until the NSW Government have a LEGISLATED AGREEMENT with the HOST LANDOWNER legally binding the Hosts to DISMANTLE all Turbines on their property within 12 months of DECOMMISSIONING. This Legislation must be available to all neighbours to present to any prospective purchasers of their own properties.

As the Department has now advised that: It has no legal power to compel wind farm operators to set aside funds for decommissioning the wind farm.

In the event the operator does not have funds to cover decommissioning costs the responsibility to decommission the wind farm will fall on Hosts because 'the development rights and obligations apply to the LAND which is the subject of the application'.

Epuron has estimated the cost of decommissioning will be approximately \$380,000 per turbine.

DISTRUCTION: The defacing of our landscape in the original plan is appalling, to even contemplate increasing the vegetation clearing of White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely Red Gum Endangered Ecological Community from 68.3 to 180.9 hectares would be totally unacceptable. The soil erosion caused by such significant clearing and the 30-50 metre wide access roads on the fragile Coppabella ridgelines would never recover. As Goldwind have consistently stated they do not approve of overhead lines, the soil erosion by replacing the 33kv reticulation line underground would be catastrophic. The Consultant repeatedly stated there was not enough value put on the landscape and the Visual Impact of these unsightly Turbines from residences, noting in many situations mitigation was not SUITABLE or ACCEPTABLE, as in the situation of residence C06. The aesthetic aspect of our landscape would be destroyed forever.

In NSW as at September 2017 there are 12 Operating Wind Farms with 361 Turbines, 8 Approved with 929 Turbines and 4 Under assessment with 258 Turbines a total of 1,548 Turbines.

DECEPTION: The dishonesty continues, with Goldwind assessments stating the increase size of the Turbines from 150 to 171 metres would not be a noticeable visual, noise or flicker difference.

As there has not been a noise assessment on the larger Turbines and there is a 14% increase in the Tower height, a 36% increase in the Blade length and a 165% increase in clearing.

This would have to be another DISHONEST statement.

This SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION request would increase the foot print equal to another 19.75 Turbines.

How could the Department and/or PAC even CONSIDER this Modification with so many VARIABLES :

We the impacted neighbours are given 4 weeks to send in submissions objecting to this

SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION based on the original 79 approved Turbines.

As the smaller Towers are no longer viable, they may only build 45 Towers- Where will they be??

So many UNANSWERED questions!!!

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