

27th May 2014

Submission to NSW Department of Planning

Re: The Paling Yards Wind Farm

We are cattle farmers who have lived on our property in excess of 20 years. We thoroughly enjoy our lifestyle and have been fortunate enough to have made a successful living from the land we love so much. Our property is located several kilometres from the proposed Wind Farm site (as the crow flies) on the Taralga side of the Abercrombie River. We have a very clear view of the ridge which is proposed to house the wind turbines.

We are in total opposition to the proposed wind farm for the following reasons:

1. Visual Pollution

Our property will be directly affected as we will see the turbines from just about every position on the property. The turbines are excessively high and we believe that there are way too many proposed for a relatively small parcel of land. These turbines will appear as industrial monsters on the horizon. We can think of nothing worse than having to view this imposing “industrial facility” from our property.

2. Noise Pollution

We are concerned that we will hear the noise from the turbines as there is no buffer between our property and the proposed site. We are particularly concerned about the louder thumping noise heard in high wind conditions. Advice has been that wind turbines can be heard for up to 10 klms. We are less than 5 klms from the proposed site – on opposite sides of the Abercrombie River valley. There is no land mass or vegetation that will protect our property. We did not buy a property in rural Australia to be subjected to constant noise throughout the day and night.

3. Drying Effect

Our farming enterprise is heavily dependent on soil moisture which generates pasture growth. We are aware that wind turbines increase the drying effect for a 20klm vicinity. As we are well within 20klms, our property will be directly affected by loss of soil moisture. This loss of soil moisture will mean that we have to decrease the number of animals grazing on our property. It is hard enough to cope with normal droughts, we don't need a human induced drought from 55 extra large turbines.

4. Increased Bushfire Risk

The proposed Paling Yard Wind farm site is surrounded by the Abercrombie National Park. There is an increased risk of bush fire due to the increase in dry fuel from the drying effect outlined in the point above.

There is also an increased risk from the number of vehicles accessing the property to perform the construction phase and ongoing maintenance. If fire were to spread into the Abercrombie National Park, the effect would be catastrophic. The park is some of the most difficult terrain in NSW and connects through to other national parks, which forms the largest area of bushland in NSW.

5. Unsuitability of Roads

The main road between the town of Taralga and the Paling Yards proposed site is totally unsuitable for large transportation vehicles. The road is narrow, windy and has a very narrow creek crossing. The road surface is poor and there are often accidents due to the numerous blind spots in the road. It would be negligent of the NSW Planning Authority to authorise the use of the road for the transportation of materials and turbine components.

6. Drop in Land Values

We believe our property will be subjected to both visual and noise pollution as we are within a 5klm distance with no protection barriers. We believe that if our property value drops due to this development, that we should be compensated for our loss of future farm earnings and value of the property.

In summary, we believe that this development should not proceed. There are significant risk factors which would suggest this site is not suitable for this type of development. We request that the NSW Department of Planning engage a truly independent environmental, risk and loss assessor to examine the issues we have raised above. We also believe that the proponent has more than double the recommended number of turbines at an excessive height on a relatively small parcel of land.