

David Kingsford and Robert and Deborah Kane  
Tanjenong  
6875 Taralga Road,  
Curraweela nsw 2580  
Property ID number R29

May 30 2014,

Dear Tracy,

In respect of the proposed wind farm at Paling Yards being constructed by Union Fenosa Wind Australia

First let us say that we are still and always will be in full support of the use of whatever alternative energy sources are possible to help curb the use of fossil fuel. We are presented with an unusual conflict of interest given that philosophically we are not opposed to wind farms, however we have become anxious regarding the adverse effects on our business and financial viability. Our concern is raised through canvassing the wind farm proposal with our customers as well as reading about the adverse affects wind farms can have on tourism operations in both Europe and Australia.

When the idea of wind farms in this area was first raised 15 years ago, this area was remote and had few visitors. The viability of the farms around here was completely dependant on the vagaries of the weather, and the erection of a few turbines on a farm would guarantee at least a modicum of income and go a long way to ensure that the farm would survive through the next drought. In those days there was talk of maybe 10-15 turbines (much smaller size in those days) on a farm that would earn the landholder \$2.5K-3K per turbine per year for an additional income of \$25K-\$45K per year, certainly enough to ensure the survival of the farm. To object to a wind farm on a neighbours property in those circumstances would be reprehensible if it endangered their viability.

We don't believe there are health issues involved, as has often been suggested by anti-windfarm advocates, however we won't know how noisy the turbines will be until they are up, or how much that noise will affect our quality of life in spite of any acoustic modelling that may have been done by Union Fenosa and their contractors. This is a very quiet place and the silence is a big part of its intrinsic beauty so we will wait to **hear** what it is actually like. We are also not opposed to the sight of the turbines in our own personal lives, however there are many others to whom these turbines are seen as a blight on the landscape especially in the context of wilderness beauty.

Unfortunately the development, planning and testing for wind farms here, was taking a long time and their implementation was by no means guaranteed, so to ensure our own survival we decided to develop Tanjenong as a tourist destination. Its wild, majestic, unspoilt beauty, and quiet solitude has made it a destination that has grown increasingly popular with our guests. The local tourism body also decided that our view over the Abercrombie River valley to the rolling foothills of the Blue Mountains was the most iconic location for them to hold the opening of the "Tablelands Way", a tourist route from Goulburn to Musselbrook. This event attracted an unheard of crowd of 2500 people for an afternoon of helicopter flights down the Abercrombie River valley, fair ground rides, guided bush walks into the valley, and a marketplace where 40 local businesses from along the new tourist route set up stands to advertise and display their products and services. Rodney Faulkner, a well known arborist in the Goulburn area was hired to conduct bush walks down to the Abercrombie River for guests to learn about native flora species that are here. He had cited a number of unusual eucalyptus and orchid species in his walk down to the river inviting us to seek heritage funding for this eucalyptus forest. By far the most outstanding reason, that 12 different shires came together in 2011 to Tanjenong to hold this event, was the iconic view.

Our tourism business, Tanjenong Cottages, has three cottages painstakingly renovated over the last 8 years, 16 kms of developed bush walks, tree plantings around a proposed camp site on the north side of Taralga Road, and, and is now going very well, with the cottages currently enjoying 90% occupancy rates on weekends throughout the year. A majority of days through the week during winter are also being booked. The small 20 site campground was also slated for development in our 5 year old business plan to round out a small family enterprise that will keep Tanjenong viable. To stop any further development of our business here in case the Paling Yards wind farm goes ahead is not logical as there is no guarantee that the wind farm *will* go ahead. The current political climate would suggest that such developments are getting less and less likely to receive any support to make them competitive with fossil fuel generated energy. So we have and will be continuing to grow our business.

About eighteen months ago however we were told that the Paling Yards wind farm project was again gaining some momentum and had now grown to as many as 60 much larger turbines than first envisioned. We were also told that Tanjenong was definitely not suitable for any turbines. At that time we were also informed about another potential wind farm to the south of us on a property on Snake Gully Road. We became concerned that a wind farm of the size of Paling Yards will have a detrimental effect on not only our growing tourism business but also on the monetary value of this iconic property which will clearly be significantly impacted by the sight of that many huge turbines. We began canvassing our guests as to what impact those turbines would have on their decision to return here or to recommend Tanjenong to others as a destination and we have been overwhelming told that the impact would be detrimental. Our business depends on word of mouth advertising from our existing customers so we are obviously concerned. It is very likely that our business will suffer. It is also very likely that the iconic natural beauty of Tanjenong will be lost along with some property value. The extent of these losses, won't be completely apparent until the turbines at Paling Yards are built and operational and their visual impact can be properly evaluated. Visual impact studies are meaningless when it comes to what people feel about something when they come to a place expecting one thing and finding another. For us, our business depends on the subjective effect that such turbines will have on the people who come to us to relax and enjoy a beautiful and majestic wilderness experience. We are certain that our business will be affected and that we will need to change the way we use the part of the farm on the north side of Taralga Road. The Snake Gully proposal however proved to be a very difficult experience with a potential wind farm perched atop the hill that our cottages face at the south end of our property. The presence of turbines this close to our business would have meant our business would have been permanently disabled with no possibility of escape from the detrimental visual impact effects of the turbines. Thankfully this project does not seem to be going ahead, but we live with low grade anxiety that, given the right political and economic climate, a wind farm development might again be considered for the Snake Gully property. We would like written assurance that Union Fenosa Wind Australia will never consider the implementation of this project again, or support or facilitate in any way, another company implementing it.

We would also like to make an emphatic rejection of power line locations outlined in Options 1, Option 2, and particularly Option 3 that run to the south of Paling Yards. Already the view from our property has been compromised and we certainly would not like to be looking at power lines running directly in front of our house which is very close to the road, near our walking trails, or across the view of the cottages. We also have learned of the possibility of interference to our electronic communications i.e. phone, wi-fi, TV signals, and would like assurances that whatever effects there are on those signals will be fixed should they arise.

Given that the Paling Yards project has grown to the point where the potential income generated for the landholders and Union Fenosa over the next 25-30 years is huge and so far beyond what it would take to keep Paling Yards farming operations viable, we would like to discuss some sort of guaranteed income assistance for whatever losses we will incur when this project proceeds. We would therefore like to hear what ever suggestions the company and the landholders would like to propose to alleviate the concerns we have for our future livelihoods. It would be unfair in the extreme if this project destroyed our business, our quality of life, and our financial viability while the development that destroyed us, reaped massive rewards. This is all we have and we are too old to start again. Union Fenosa, as a company based in Europe where these situations have adequate guidelines and regulations to ensure this doesn't happen, has expertise that could provide a fair and reasonable guide to an amiable way through this whereby no one has to lose anything and all of our futures are secure.

Sincerely,  
David Kingsford, Tanjenong property owner  
Rob and Deb Kane, Residents & Tanjenong Cottages proprietors

P.S.

We would like to reserve the right to add further submission details by no later than Monday, June 2, 2014, as we are still awaiting information from sources that have not got back to us yet.

Below we have offered two very interesting studies which specifically look at the impact of the turbines on scenic wilderness. As we suspected, attitudes towards turbines becomes extremely polarising when people choose to go and spend their money relaxing in beauty and solitude of the Australian wilderness. The first is from **Geographical research - Earth Sciences online**. The second is from the **Australian Wind Energy association and Australian national trust**.

**(Geographical research - Earth Sciences online)**

A survey of the visual effects of wind farms was undertaken in South Australia, with the aim of quantifying the impact of wind farms on the perceived scenic quality of landscapes. In the study a total of 311 participants assessed the scenic quality of a photographed landscape in 68 coastal and inland locations where wind farms could be located, both without wind farms and with wind farms digitally added to the scene. A key finding of the study was that wind farms generally had a negative effect on landscapes of higher scenic quality but a positive effect on landscapes of lower scenic quality. The negative visual effects of a wind farm did not reduce appreciably with distance. White, blue or grey coloured turbines were preferred over tan or rainbow hues, but this finding was based on a small number of scenes. Limitations of the study included using static views of wind farms and having an insufficient number of scenes to assess the influence of the number of turbines on scenic quality ratings. The study concluded that wind farms should avoid areas of higher perceived scenic quality, particularly on the coast, and be located in areas of lower scenic quality. The study adds to the growing body of international research on community attitudes to wind farms, and contributes useful knowledge for future planning of wind farms in Australia. These research results should assist communities, government agencies and the wind energy industry and improve the planning and design of wind farms by taking community perceptions into account.

The size and physical presence of wind farm turbines is uncontested. Whilst to some, the presence "speaks of inspiration and aspiration", to others the visual dominance unacceptably changes the character of the place, with several survey respondents claiming wind farms contribute to an "industrialisation" of rural or natural landscapes. A more balanced response was obtained from a visual management expert who responded to the survey, to whom the towers were both "tall, graceful, elegantly designed", but when "very large scale ... intrusive on the landscape".

**Australian Wind Energy association and Australian national trust**

Individually, wind turbines exceed 'human scale' and can be an overpowering and unacceptable presence to the viewer (Stanton, 1996; Inspiring Place, 2002a). Survey respondents claim wind turbines have a heightened impact on character and scenic values where they are located (either individually or collectively) and on features of high scenic or aesthetic value to communities (see also Smith, 2003).

It is as collections of turbines in wind farms that wind energy facilities have the greatest potential impact on character and scenery. Although not quantitatively measured in this survey, greater numbers of turbines, covering a larger land area, or occurring in important view fields, appear more likely to be viewed as unacceptably detracting from the landscape character or scenic values. According to overseas studies – based on the now superseded technology requiring large clusters of earlier types of smaller turbines – the number of turbines has been found to have a greater effect on landscape character than the size of turbines (van de Wardt and Staats, 1988).

Further, the scale of wind turbines and their contrast to landscapes, means that impacts on distance for visual intrusion is debated, potential scenic and character impacts of wind farms extend to far greater distances than most other types of development in a landscape (Schwann, 2002). Concern exists therefore, over potential visual intrusion on areas where appreciation or sense of place value depend upon a natural landscape setting (for example national parks)."