

Thursday, 13 March 2008

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Residents to petition

Tim Hughes

OPPONENTS of a wind farm planned for the Waterloo Range on the western side of the Furracabad Valley have notched up their campaign, and will take their cause direct to the NSW Parliament.

Grouping themselves as the Glen Innes Landscape Guardians Inc, the group has started a petition against the proposal, which would see between 22 and 27 wind turbines erected on a ridgeline of a valley.

"Our aim is to prevent the proposed wind farm on the Waterloo Range," spokesperson Dr Ashley Peake said.

"We've begun door knocking up the valley and there is a lot of support for our cause from residents concerned that the development is inappropriately sited and will have a serious impact on residents' quality of life," Dr Peake said.

The main concerns of residents include noise and visual impact during construction and operation; the effect of shadow and flicker light and electromagnetic interference with television and mobile phone reception; reduced property values; impact on agricultural enterprises particularly aerial application of fertiliser, proximity to a number a houses and environmental risks to birds and wildlife.

Distribution of the petition began on the weekend with Furracabad valley resident Steven Lynn the first to sign.

"It's a beautiful valley and it shouldn't be ruined. We'll definitely be able to see many of the turbines from our place, we can see the two test towers," Mr Lynn said.

"While we don't know for sure, we believe we may also be affected by the noise of the turbines as well.

"It will affect everyone's property values for sure, but most of us aren't going to get any financial benefit from them; we'll just get all the negatives," he said.

E For details about the petition ring Suzanne McAlary on 6732 4058.

Opposed...(above right) Furracabad valley resident Steven Lynn puts the first signature on a petition against a windfarm proposed for the Waterloo Range west of Glen Innes .

Glen Innes Examiner

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Glen Innes Landscape Guardians Inc

C/172 Cherry Tree Road
FURRACABAD NSW 2370

7 July 2008

Mr Colin Paterson
Glen Innes Windpower Pty Ltd
Level 16, 60 Carrington Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Paterson,

The vast majority of the residents in the Furracabad Valley are opposed to the proposed Glen Innes Wind Farm in particular the turbines at the southern end in close proximity to residences. We know this because we have done the kind of consultation that Glen Innes Wind Power Pty Ltd has failed to do through their consultants Connell Wagner.

The Glen Innes Severn Council is also opposed to turbines in close proximity to homes as evidenced by their recently adopted Wind Power Generation Development Control Plan which limits turbine location to greater than 2 km from non-related dwellings with an increased separation if the turbines proposed are significantly higher than the dwellings (see enclosed).

Our local member and speaker of the Legislative Assembly the Honourable Mr Richard Torbay is supportive of the council DCP with its minimum 2km setback and has made representations on our behalf.

Residents, the council and our local member are aware that we do not oppose sustainable energy solutions (such as wind farms) just the inappropriate siting of what we understand will be the biggest turbines this country has ever seen in very close proximity to neighbouring homes.

Initial analysis by our consultant of the property "Cherry Tree" formerly "Eungai" background noise data indicates that noise from the bank of turbines will exceed the relevant South Australian Guidelines.

Turbines are located within 2km of the following residences:

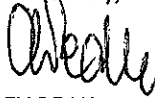
"Highfields" - Mr Phillip and Mrs Maryanne Evans
"Cherry Tree" formerly "Eungai" - Dr Ashley Peake and Ms Suzanne McAlary
"Mayvona" - Mr Frank McAlary QC (unoccupied)
"Ilparran" - Mr Sam Crothers
"Wattle Vale" Mr Ray and Mrs June Rossington
"Callert" - Mr Terry and Mrs Amanda Watters
"Girraween" Mr Neil Davis

We are calling on Glen Innes Wind Power Pty Ltd to respect the wishes of residents and their elected representatives and to reconfigure their proposal with a minimum 2km setback of turbines from non related dwellings.

We would also welcome the opportunity prior to the public exhibition to discuss this reconfiguration with you and assist in finding a constructive way forward.

We await your written response.

Yours sincerely,



ASHLEY PEAKE

Cc Mr Frank Sartor MP– Minister for Planning
 Mr Ian MacDonald MP– Minister for Energy
 Ms Verity Firth MP – Minister for Climate Change and Environment
 Mr Scott Jeffries – Dept of Planning
 Mr Richard Torbay MP
 Mr Tony Windsor MP
 Mr Hein Basson – Glen Innes Severn Council