APPENDIX F: COMMUNITY PETITION

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP NSW Minister for Planning 52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000 4/10/2016

Dear Minister Stokes,

We write to you expressing our dismay at action you have authorised which will irreparably damage the beautiful Barrier Ranges at Silverton and our lives as we currently know them. We not only mourn this loss for ourselves, but also for our children, grandchildren and the people of Australia who will visit to see this magnificent area.

We don't expect you to know where Silverton is, it is about as far away from Sydney as you can get before crossing into South Australia. We are, however, just as important as the communities in Sydney and you have the same responsibility to us as those more populated areas of the state.

We speak of the AGL Silverton Wind Farm project for which you are currently considering allowing 180 metre high turbines. The Barrier Ranges are rugged to say the least. In order for a wind farm to be built here, AGL will need to blast huge areas of land for the formation of level areas, roads etc. This is nothing less than environmental vandalism and this kind of destruction cannot be justified. The hills will NEVER look the same as they do now. You cannot impose any penalties upon AGL which will protect our ranges, as we know too well this company's reputation for ignoring conditions and also the people who live close to their developments. They have no interest in preserving our natural environment or the heritage held within. The following points highlight our most serious concerns:

- The project was approved by disgraced minister Tony Kelly
- An act of parliament was changed to allow this project on the host properties
- Host property owners (lessees) were forced to sign to allow the project on their land under threat of having their land taken away from them. Not all hosts are in favour of this project
- The Barrier Ranges are beautiful, rugged and pristine. The visual and landscape value have been grossly underestimated
- The Sidney Kidman connection with the Silverton area has been ignored
- The significant Australian mining history (Silverton is the birthplace of BHP) has been ignored
- The significant Trade Union History (has early roots in Silverton, 8 hour day was formed here)...ignored
- The significant Silverton Tramway Company was formed by five Silverton businessmen. It was Australia's first privately owned railway, formed to connect NSW with SA so ore from Broken Hill could be sent to smelters in SA. This railway served to make billions of dollars in royalties for the NSW Government....ignored

- Eldee Station was once part of Mundi Mundi Pastoral Station which was settled by 1860. The Head Station Homestead, men's quarters and a number of other buildings were built in a picturesque spot along a creek. It was here that Traphera Whiting was born...the first European female born on the Barrier Ranges. The ruins of these buildings still stand....ignored
- The Mundi Mundi Head Station Homestead is believed to be the first place on the Barrier Ranges to have a telephone line.....more history ignored
- At least one mega fauna fossil site exists in the Eldee House Creek.....another significant site ignored
- Has anyone investigated the Dreamtime Story of the Bronze wing Pigeon in the Barrier Ranges.....this story is significant to local indigenous people and continues on to the Pinnacles area in Broken Hill which has been declared a sacred site.....ignored
- We are aware of Aboriginal rock art in the area of the wind farm site.... Ignored
- There is evidence of indigenous occupation sites dating back thousands of years...these are ignored.....your department cannot oversee all AGL's activities on this site and protect the myriad of significant sites, both indigenous and European, which have survived through the protection from the current land holders...
- Species of plants which grow nowhere else in the world...ignored
- Significant bird and bat populations on the project site...ignored
- The discovery of a new species of lizard, the Barrier Range Dragon, listed as endangered...ignored
- Known issues with noise of turbines and impacts on local communities...ignored
- Known health effects.....yes governments around the world know.....ignored
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites on the project site...ignored
- Tourism impacts on Silverton...ignored
- Film industry impacts..... think Mad Max, Strangerland, A Town Like Alice and countless TV commercials.....ignored
- Impacts on our lifestyle....ignored
- Our small population (about 40) makes it almost impossible to get 30 submissions to warrant a PAC hearing.....it also makes us vulnerable to such projects (not enough people to complain, according to AGL)
- The attached signatures are from Silverton Residents, Broken Hill Residents and some visitors to Silverton over the past week...we urge you to take note of the comments....

These points just scratch the surface. This project should never have gained approval at the very start. We, the undersigned, urge you and your department to reject the current Modification 3 application before you and any future applications for extension or modification of this project. When the currently approved construction time runs out, the project's complete demise should be allowed. If you have any power to extinguish this project immediately, it should be done.

Yours sincerely

See attached

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