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Submission to capital Windfarm 11 proposal

I am opposed to the proposal for the following reasons:

Intrusive noise.

Our house is in close proximity to over 20 existing turbines, I am frequently woken at night by the noise created by them, sometimes startled awake, often several times a night. Disturbed sleep leaves me tense, headachy and tired, very often for days at a time; I am concerned that the construction and operation of more turbines in the direction of prevailing winds will exacerbate the noise we already experience. Infigen has carried out some noise monitoring, to date we have had no information from them regarding this, although we have been promised data on several occasions. Palerang Council claims to have no method for monitoring noise or acting on resident's complaints regarding noise and complaints to the NSW Planning department have also met with no action. Given past inaction by a number of bodies regarding noise pollution, I have no faith that future increased noise problems will be treated any differently.

Danger to Bird life using Lake George and its environs.

Lake George, being a large upland lake, provides an important habitat for a very wide range and large number of wetland birds. Although the lake has contained little or no water over the past few very dry years, now that it is approximately half full, birds have begun to return. Bird surveys conducted close to site of the proposed turbines have already recorded thousands of Grey Teal, tens of Australasian Shoveler, Chestnut Teal, Black Swan, numbers of Australian Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck as well as wading and shoreline birds such as White faced Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Black winged Stilt, Redcapped and Doublebanded Plovers and Banded and Masked Lapwing. Birds Australia recommends that wind towers not be situated close to lakes and wetlands but the proposal is for turbines to be erected 200 metres from the lake edge; this will seriously affect birds using the shoreline as well as heavy waterbirds in flight. Studies from European windfarms have shown that birds are able to navigate small numbers of obstacles such as turbines, but that they become confused when faced with large numbers of towers. As Lake George fills first from the eastern side and the flight path of many of these birds is between Lake George and Lake Bathurst to the East they will be placed in considerable danger by the current proposal. A pair of Wedge tailed Eagles is currently nesting in rocks bordering the eastern lake shore, Brown and Black Falcons, Australian Kestrels live and are frequently seen around Lake George, Ospreys visit regularly, again, Birds Australia recommends that wind towers not be located in areas frequented by raptors. Clearly the surveys undertaken by Infigen are inadequate and should be repeated over several weeks and at times (early morning) when birds are more easily seen. Without better surveys being conducted, this, I believe that **no turbines should be constructed on the Eastern side of Lake George.**

Flora and Fauna.

The proposed construction will occupy what was a natural temperate grassland, which although it may be degraded to some degree, it is nevertheless worth taking care to preserve as much as possible of this important habitat for some endangered and vulnerable plants and animals. Roads, tracks, power lines and other connections will only cause more damage to an area which can be returned to a healthy grassland system. Every effort should be made to ensure this happens and extensive independent monitoring should be carried out, both during construction and during operation, should the proposal be approved.

Indigenous heritage.

Aboriginal people used the Lake George area extensively prior to white settlement, there are large numbers of sites surrounding and close to Lake George, Taylor's Creek and Allionoyanyiga Creek including a Bora Ring and camp sites. Local people have known about many of these sites but there has been very little archaeological work carried out. Although Infigen has undertaken some work close to the sites of the proposed turbines, I am concerned that roadworks and other construction activities will disturb the indigenous heritage of the area and render later surveys impossible. Extensive surveys undertaken by archaeologists with experience in the field of indigenous heritage, should be carried out before approval of the proposal is given, to enable documentation and preservation of this heritage for all Australians.

Palynology of Lake George sediments.

Studies of pollen, from cores from the Lake George bed, undertaken in the 1980's reveal some of the oldest vegetative changes recorded in Australia, since that time however, funding for further work has not been made available. This may be an opportunity for Infigen to work with the geological and palynological communities in funding further research in this important area.

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