

Modification Application Report (118 pages) & Appendix G.1: Visual Impact

The first line of the Executive Summary states “the approved Rye Park Wind Farm (the Project) ... is located to the west of Rye Park”. It is located to the east of the village. If they cannot even get this basic fact correct how can the rest of this huge (1378 pages) application be trusted?

They state on page 11 that:

“Visual Impact: Not considered to result in a magnitude of visual change that would significantly increase visual effects (and former visual impact ratings) associated with the Approved Project”.

We discovered by reading this application that we will see 58 turbines and 64 if the original approval goes ahead (*Appx G.1 Visual Impact Page 24*). This was not included in the original Epuron application as figures were only given for within 2km, so it is the first indication of how severe the impact on us will be visually.

Adding an extra 43m onto 157m structure built on a hills that are up to 776m high (turbine 50) will definitely increase the visual impact. It is almost the equivalent of adding 15 stories to a residential high-rise building making the structure equivalent to a 60 stories building*. That makes it a similar height to the Citigroup Centre (minus it’s spire) in Sydney’s CBD which is Australia’s 11th tallest building. Adding this height to 80 towers will magnify this effect hugely. (**from City of Victoria. 2011. Downtown Core Area Plan. Map 32: Maximum Building Heights. p. 89*).

We also discovered that we are on the cusp of the area of concern for the Rye Park and Bango Windfarms making us more at risk from cumulative impacts both visual and auditory (*Green Bean Design Figure 48*)

Some turbines have been removed from the project because a host did not want to see the taller 200m structures. Others are subject to voluntary acquisition. If they have such a significant impact that these people have the opportunity to have them removed or remove themselves, why is this not available to everyone? If they didn’t want to see them, why would we? But we do not seem to have that choice.

You have ruined our lives. Farming is a hard life but the one bright spot was the beautiful countryside we enjoyed from our home. We installed a picture window in our lounge / dining room to enjoy the view down the valley towards the village (as below). Our office also has the same view. The next view is from our front garden. Turbines will be built on all these hills.





The whole of our property is our workplace. Now they will strip the trees and flatten the hills and turn it into an industrial site.

You have taken away any chance of a cohesive community by turning neighbour against neighbour and demonstrating that money is more important than friendship. But then to really stick the knife in you want to make them bigger and noisier.

I am very worried about the mental effect this will have on my husband and myself and I'm even more worried that we will not be able to sell quickly at a price that will mean we can buy another suitable home if we cannot cope with living in the vicinity of this 'project'.

The credibility of the company doing the Visual Impact Assessment (*Green Bean Design*) should be called to account because their presentation at the Public Exhibition was not even the correct photos for the village area.

Why does it take 149 pages if nothing is different? What else are they trying to bury?