

3 June 2020

NSW Government

To whom it may concern

Re: Rye Park Wind Farm

I am writing to express my concern regarding the planned construction of a wind farm in Rye Park and suggest further community consultation is undertaken prior to issuing planning and regulatory approvals for construction to commence. I had heard nothing of the proposed increase in height to 200m which will increase the visual impact of the turbines by approximately 27% until today and therefore believe insufficient public consultation within the Rye Park district, among those directly impacted by this project has been undertaken.

I seriously question if the construction of a wind farm in the Rye Park district is feasible due to the highly variable output of such electricity generating systems and the requirement to have an alternative more reliable system running in parallel to smooth out supply. The supplementary electricity generating system would need to be capable of rapid output response to ensure a seamless electricity supply as the generation from the turbine system readily fluctuates. The need to have two electricity generating systems running in parallel would increase the cost of electricity whilst the carbon reduction impacts realised may be minimal or non-existent. We need to be certain that all energy options have been considered in relation to the environmental, economic and carbon reduction benefits. Consideration should also be given to if the current electricity network has the capacity to fully utilise the electricity generated.

There are number of concerns I believe construction of a wind farm in the Rye Park district raises which will be amplified by the increased height of the towers including:

- The noise pollution created by these turbines spinning 24 hours a day will disrupt the daily undertakings and sleep of Rye Park residents.
- The visual impact will ruin the current undisturbed scenic outlook.
- Environmental impacts including the harm caused to wildlife and the Pudman Creek and surrounding water catchments, particularly during construction.
- Increased traffic in the district when the quality of roads are not suited to higher traffic volumes.
- All of the above factors will negatively impact property prices in the area.

Currently the Rye Park district enjoys a peaceful tranquil atmosphere, as such any additional noise created by the operation and construction of the turbines undermines the quality of life of Rye Park residents. Being told that for the majority of residences the noise levels will meet the operational criteria is not satisfactory as this still impacts our quality of life. The noise considerations should also not be limited to residences but to all areas of surrounding property. It is important that we can still continue to work in peace on our properties, enjoy a peaceful picnic by the creek or horse ride through the bush. We want to be guaranteed that the noise pollution generated from the wind farm will be zero.

The addition of wind turbines in the Rye Park district will completely change the scenic views enjoyed by residents of Rye Park and the surrounding district. The proposed increase to the turbine height will see further impact to the landscape and increase the likelihood of interference by shadow flicker that needs to be considered not only around residences but across entire properties and farming communities.

We have concerns regarding the environmental impact upon Pudman Creek and the surrounding catchments as Pudman Creek is home to platypus's pigmy perch, legless lizards and there have been sightings of what's thought to be corroboree frogs. The construction of wind turbines and the associated infrastructure in the district will dramatically increase human traffic in an otherwise remote area, this will segment and reduce the habitat available to wildlife. The turning blades can also pose a threat to native bird and bat life that currently enjoy safe uninhibited skies.

Construction of a wind farm in the district will dramatically increase traffic tenfold or more upon roads that are not constructed to withstand such traffic volumes. The proposed road upgrades will also create significant environmental impacts and pose inconvenience upon the daily lives of the community.

Property prices are likely to be impacted by the visibility of the wind farm especially at the proposed increased height of 200m. The increased industrialisation of the area will destroy the current way of life of the community.

Given the clear detriment the construction of a wind farm in the Rye Park district would have upon the environment and the community I would suggest the proposed plan be seriously reconsidered. Wind turbines fail to generate a stable energy source and provide a guaranteed and as a result significantly increase the cost to produce electricity. In the current economic climate such a project may not be in the best interests of the nation and alternative electricity sources should possibly be considered. I appreciate the consideration of the views within this submission.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "WR Wade".

William Wade

WR & RJ & MC Wade