

Director Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment OPIE

4/5/2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Bowmans Creek Wind Farm Application Number SSD 10315

I am attaching my submission to the above-mentioned development application.

I hereby declare that I object to the Bowmans Creek Windfarm proposal ID no.SSD 10315

I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years.

Property's referenced Dwelling No is, G17-1 as per Epuron's document stated in EIS.

Meaning we are one of the closest non associated properties, effected by up to 21 turbines at the closest distance of 1.98km.

There will be a very large impact on our life, financially, health wise, visually,

I am writing to object to the Bowmans Creek windfarm as proposed by Epuron. It can be shown that Epuron have not met the requirements to address the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, it has not been assessed in accordance with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, or as required by the Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements.

The position for my objection is the miss leading information in relation to the Bowmans Creek wind farm development.

1 Background

My concerns are the misleading information has been made throughout the EIS as set out below. Our property at 816 Muscle Creek Rd Muscle Creek (Muswellbrook) we offered Epuron access to the property to carry out accurate assessment for the local areas. Allowed to access and carryout when requested Noise monitoring, Photo montage. we discussed at one of the open community meeting to have flora and fauna monitoring carry out but was refused by Epuron. Reasoning for this is to protect all area of our environment and reduce to health risk to ourselves and surrounding neighbourhood. These concerns are based on meeting both community and face to face, phone calls and email with the developer and reading the EIS

2 Visual

Concerns of the visual amenities from our property being the size and structure of the development. The surrounding landscape is open rural with tree lined ridges and valleys. The proposed development is an industrial development that is not both fitting and visually allowable to the local landscape vision. Appendix A Scenic quality class map and existing site panorama photos **attachment 25PM Dwelling G17-1** the montage is not of a quality to depict our landscape or the scale of the proposed development, we have requested from Epuron for a survey quality montage with accurate survey heights **(this was refused by Epuron)**. The statement for the closest turbine from our residents is incorrect turbine numbers 68, 64, 69 and 70, by using our limited access to survey and mapping, I used products from Near Maps and Six Maps all showing closer proximity of turbine to our residents of 1.98Km

landscape Character Type 7 Power Generation is classified as having a Moderate Scenic Quality Assessment, the existing power generation plants Liddell and Bayswater power station sites surrounded by native landscape buffer land of approx. 9,000Ha. With the proposed development as Moderate Scenic Quality Assessment, the power stations at Liddell and Bayswater could be surrounded by housing. But the likely hood of that as no one would want to live there, just like people and families do not want to live next to a wind power Generator development. Turbine construction heights from several NSW approved and operational wind farms. Bodangora 85m, Crookwell 80-90m, Biala 80-90m, Gunning 60m, Taralga 80m, Woodlawn 80m and Capital 80m. In listing the NSW operational wind farm with topography being of lower rolling rangers, Epuron is proposing a **150m hub height turbine** set of the heights ridge line in the Muswellbrook area, and the largest turbine in height to be constructed in Australia. This being planned to use only assumed values do not based on actual values and measurements from alike operating projects in NSW and Australia. Other infrastructure that has not been included in the EIS fir visual amenities High voltage power line and Two Power sub stations located base of turbine 69 noting that is located on the heavily treed ridge line and 2nd substation between turbines 48 and 49 also in a heavily treed area.

The evaluations of the Scenic Quality Class for the properties assessed in the document does not have any credibility based on these comparisons.

3 Noise amenities

This is a rural open area with granite line ridges with deep valleys opening into small farmland holding and into the out skirts of Muswellbrook residential housing estates. As to the modelling in the EIS we have been indicated the noise modelling as set as a typical wind farm on open very low undulating slopes. These have been indicated in the EIS Not what the Muswellbrook area natural landscape form.

To gain an understanding of the projected noise level we agreed to have noise monitoring taken from our property with the agreement that we could have a raw copy of the noise data, since we have requested this with phone calls and face to face meeting with Epuron. **(again, this was refused to be supplied)**

4 Dust and emissions from both construction and operation,

We know since moving into the muswellbrook area that the air quality is not great with having poor air quality several alerts given over the past three years, I do not think we need to add to the poor air quality with this development and the risk of ill health to our families or neighbours.

Concerns stated in the EIS all access roads will be constructed from gravel gained from development earthworks, Blasting and Crushing on site to make the construction materials. As the developer has stated the reasons for the development location is for the high wind are. This should be sealed pavements and crane lay down pads to reduce the mitigation of overall dust and any other exposed areas revegetated

Blasting within 2km from our dwelling is unacceptable for noise, dust, and vibrations.

We requested information from Epuron to confirm the method of excavation and crushing, still awaiting a reply.

During operations concerns with turbine break down and maintenance, knowing that the blade composite is that of toxic base, Blade failure with the fragment and toxic air borne practicals impacting on our property and our drinking water (as we have no access to town supplied water)

There is also the risks of glass and carbon fibres being released to the atmosphere through the handling of, erosion of and breakage of the wind turbine blades.

Wind turbine blades are constructed from resins, glass fibre reinforced polyester, glass fibre reinforced epoxy, and carbon fibre reinforced epoxy. Combining the glass fibres with the resin matrix. Erosion is caused by the effect of the turbine blades moving through the atmosphere this is exacerbated with the

large turbines as they interfere with one another, due to the turbulence (as illustrated in photo A) which puts more stress on them.

Breakages are common on turbine blades with examples being the brand new Dundonnell wind farm in Victoria losing a 73m 70 tonne blade in 2020 and in September 2019 wind farm in Victoria also losing a blade.

Every time a blade breaks micro glass and or carbon fibres are released into the atmosphere with the potential they could be breathed in by a person. These fibres act in the same way as Asbestos in the recipient's lungs and ingested through drinking water.

We harvest drinking water from rainwater though house and shed gutter collecting, there is no way to stop the practicals from settling on our roof tops and ending up in our water supply.

5 our property

Dwelling G17-1 of 816 Muscle Creek Rd Muscle Creek (Muswellbrook) we purchased the property August 2019 with the unknown proposed Windfarm Development, we have been notified by the Developer (Epuron) that they had contact with the previous owner and real estate to inform them of the proposed development. As stated in Background we have given Epuron access to our property to carryout all monitoring to give a good open and informed line of communication and information. We offered Epuron access to undertake flora and fauna monitoring on our property due to the large amount of wildlife on our property both ground dwelling and bird life, and was not taken up by the Developer (Epuron)

Health and Mental Health

Concern is the health implications due to the development with the constant infu Sound at all times of the direction winds from the North, north East and south east. Even being worst in Autumn to Late Winter with the temperature being below 12 Degrees and humidity from 15% and below.

Light flicker in early morning with limited specialist equipment I have timed the rising sun with the montage locations supplied by Epuron our property would suffer 27Minutes ever morning during the Autumn Winter and spring months of the year and the constant construction and maintenance traffic, noise, and repair machinery E.g., large, and heavy lift crange equipment.

In a rural outlook being overtaken with industrial structures.

My wife and youngest daughter suffer depression and are under medical care, we purchased in this area after investigation of no further mining or major infrastructure project.,To reduce the burden on our family and ease the Depression and Anxiety. This development has worsened their mental health with the dealings with Epuron and with of our planned retirement and future in a peaceful rural life.

Fire Risk

The risk assessment table 3 of the EIS is not actually a risk assessment it is a table that prioritises Epuron's approach to the matters they have identified as issues.

A risk assessment looks at likelihood and severity, if the severity is death the outcome is always a HIGH RISK.

Table 3 of the EIS is misleading - multiple deaths occur from Major single event bushfires in Australia caused by natural and manmade developments in common years.

In the introduction Epuron have also indicated "Epuron has used its experience in wind farm development" Epuron have had eight projects approved and before construction commenced, they have on sold the projects at every approval.

Epuron do not have experience in wind farm development, they have experience of gaining the approved development, this statement is false and misleading.

According to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, during the bush fires that occurred on the East coast of NSW during late

2019 and early 2020:

- 26 people lost their lives
- Nearly 2500 Homes were destroyed
- Approx. \$100m in infrastructure destroyed
- 600,000Ha of pasture burnt
- Thousands of agricultural fencings lost

With my 30 plus years of service with NSW Rural Fire service at the highest volunteer level and as a district training office at all levels of firefighting this should not ever been classified as Moderate.

This classification is HIGH and within the EIS Epuron did not mitigate the fire danger to what the development should be classified too, this development requires to be reclassified.

With the limited time to decipher and take understand and reference documents and specialist reports of the 1500 plus-page EIS with also running our family company. I reserve the rights to add to is objection.

Kind Regards

Grant Robertson