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Date: 4/5/2021

Total pages: 4

Total Attachments: 3

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.

Our Property's referenced Dwelling No is, G17-1 as per Epuron's document. (Doc 3 attached)

and stated in EIS.

We own one of the closest non associated properties, effected by up to 19 turbines with an approximate closest distance of 1.98km, presumably to the external of the base of the turbine? These turbines will be on ridge lines higher than our property and then the turbines at 220m above that. At no time have we been advised what the tip height from our home will be.

There will be a very large impact on our life if this development is to go ahead, financially, health wise and visually.

Sine we were made aware of this proposed development it has and still is impacting our everyday life with the continued stress of the financial and health impacts we can be exposed to now and into the future. Each and every time we drive up the driveway and look at the pristine view, we are reminded of the possibility of this project ruining our life here.

I believe we need to find cleaner energy but do not think this should come at a price to a community and make a few land holders a great deal of \$\$\$.

This has also had a big impact on relationships in the valley, dividing the community, to where people don't talk to neighbours due the fact that they are Associated or Non associated with the project. It is intimidating and bullying.

Our lifestyle, health property values are all being threatened/dictated with little or no regard by our participating neighbours.

This has put added stress on our family, already settling into a new neighbourhood and making new friends.

## **PERSONAL**

We purchased this beautiful unique cattle property in Sept 2018 for our family to live in an unspoilt peaceful valley surrounded by flawless hills, grazing paddocks, creeks, and native wildlife surrounding this small amount of open grazing land, untouched by the mining industry. A hard find in this Upper Hunter area.

Landmark Harcourts sold us 816 Muscle Creek Rd Muscle Creek failing to advise us of the Proposed wind farm which had been public knowledge since the first half of 2018. I would have presumed that this being such a State Significant Development that notification to Real Estates would be a high priority ?

We spoke several times to the previous owners who never disclosed the proposed development to us either.

The first meetings held for the Community were in October 2018, which we were not notified of and it was not till late 2019 that a member of the community approached us asking if we were in favour of the development? They had assumed we were, as we had not attended the meeting and thought we had knowingly purchased the property.

Epuron notified us 13/11/2019 (Doc 4 attached) stating “We have been compiling a list of Real Estate Agents in Singleton, Muswellbrook and Scone and we have included them in our newsletter mailing list, so they get project updates “

## **VISUAL**

We will be subject to the sight of approximately 19 turbines which are on a ridge above our property Dwelling No G17-1. We were offered screening, which is not at all possible in our situation, unless there are trees that will grow very fast to about 250m.

Almost all the references and pictures contained in the EIS document relating to “A Typical Wind Farm” have almost no relevance to the Proposed Bowmans Creek Wind Farm. This is due to the topography of the area being nothing like any other wind farm in Australia. Please visit the area and you will get an idea of the terrain and beauty.

The night sky is very clear and it is amazing how many stars are visible in the night skies. This is always commented on by visitors. The EIS refers to “if lighting is required “on the turbines, it is definitely required as per the Civil Aviation Authority. We do not want the interference of continually flashing lights filling our skies. This will also make an impact on the health/anxiety already felt by members of my family.

Photomontages do not accurately show the size and diameter of a turbine this size. These will be as big in circumference as the large stacks at the Bayswater Power Station which are visible from further than the 8km stated in the EIS.

## **NOISE**

We agreed to let Epuron conduct Noise Monitoring on our property in October 2019 (See Doc 1 attachment) so that we could receive the results for future referencing.

This monitoring took place between Oct 2019 and December 2019.

We have asked several times verbally and via email for the results of this monitoring, as per the Sonus document attached, we were entitled to the results of this monitoring.

Up until our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 we have had no response to our request. On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 both Julian Gasby and Martin Poole from Epuron met with my husband and myself and both said that they cannot supply us with the raw data collected from the noise monitoring conducted at our property in 2019, and unable to give us a reason it cannot be supplied ???

So this leads us to conclude that this monitoring showed something Epuron do not wish to share with us or the general public ?? Possibly that the peacefulness of our property could hinder the proposed developments sighting.

The monitoring equipment was placed on a fence post, which we believe would make an impact to the results.

This does not give us the confidence to accept that this noise data taken at our property is a true and accurate account of the current noise levels and future noise impacts the wind turbines, batching plant and Substation can possibly have on our property, and therefore should not be counted as evidence for the EIS or any future referencing. These turbines, substation and batch plant need to be relocated a greater distance from ours and neighbouring non- associated properties so no future health implications will impact our families lives.

## **HEALTH**

Dust from the access tracks and construction of turbines, batching plant, and substation is a concern. These access tracks need to be sealed finishes so that they do not add to the dust already contributed by the mines in the area. Dust monitoring needs to be undertaken before, during and after construction to alleviate any concerns arising.

The effects of flicker, flashing lights and sound of any sort are a great concern for the Mental Health - Anxiety/depression of all in the community. These will be part of everyday life if the development goes ahead, and we should not have to be exposed to these at such close proximity of our home.

## **LAND VALUE**

We purchased our property in Muscle Creek in 2018 after years of searching for an appropriate place for our family, work, and to help ease anxiety and depression.

We are very concerned that this development will have a big impact on the valuation of our property. We could not continue to live here with the noise, flicker & night lights continually flashing, resulting in more anxiety and depression. It is unlikely that we will be able to find a like property in this area at a similar cost, within a reasonable time where our family can continue in their current occupation.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Muswellbrook Council refused to nominate a representative for the CCC Community Consultation Committee, Martin Rush the Mayor at the time advised the Chair of CCC that Council would have their own meetings with Epuron, how are we to be sure that the topics discussed were keeping good

to the Community in which he was representing? Our group Stop the Spin approached our local member at the time, Michael Johnsen, who also refused to meet with the group.

There have been just 2 Community Meetings held at 3 venues from 2018 to 2020, and 2 more at only 2 venues in 2021. No meeting for the Community was held in Muscle Creek in 2021.

### **FLICKER**

In the EIS Landscape and Visual, Green Bean Design Document Pages 124 to 127 relating to our property G17-1, it does not recognise Shadow flicker as a visual concern?

### **PROPERTY VALUE**

I am concerned that the value of our property is now tainted with this proposal and there is no way of knowing its true value. The documents that are referred to in the EIS are not related to turbines of this size and location and therefore cannot be relied upon.

Finding another property with characteristics of this valley's peace and tranquillity is almost unattainable in proximity to our chosen employment, towns, size of land and \$ value of land.

### **NEIGHBOUR AGREEMENTS**

The Government needs to develop a Policy around Neighbour Agreements and Acquisition. This needs to include fair commercial terms.

### **Decommissioning**

In other countries turbines are dramatically coming to an end and decommissioning is becoming a land fill issue since the blades are not recyclable.

Developers should have to develop a suitable substantial fund for decommissioning, and a way to manufacture blades that are recyclable needs to be addressed

Without ample time, money and access to specific programmes, specialised equipment and expertise in these fields we, the community are relying on the Department of Planning, a Government Department to have our best interests at mind when determining this application and its content.

I reserve the rights to submit any additional information outside the exhibition period during the assessment of the application.

We invite you to visit our property to realise the impact that is imminent if this is approved without any change or deletion of turbines.

Regards

Sandra Robertson