

I have lived in the Hebden for more than fifty years, my parents having purchased a property on which they wanted to have a secure home and future for their family. Since a child, I have worked alongside my parents in all of the uncertainties of life on the land; droughts, floods, bushfires, economic ups and downturns with the view that this property would be security and sanctuary for future generations. After my father was killed in a tractor accident on the property in 1984, at the age of seventeen I began running the property with my mother until her death and continue to breed commercial beef cattle for the local market. Our property is at the end of Hebden Rd and will be directly impacted by the proposed wind farm development from three directions, north, east and west. The property is in a highly productive beef cattle breeding area, which is stunningly beautiful with rolling hills, pristine vistas and amazing wildlife and birdlife, including a rare white sea eagle which makes its home in trees on our property during early spring each year.

If the proposed Bowmans Creek Wind farm development goes ahead our lives will be negatively impacted and future generations. I formally object to the proposal and am concerned about the impact of the following issues:

- **Visual Impacts**

- A lack of information regarding any mitigation measures taken to deal with the visual impacts.
- Photo montages provided to us by the proponent are not accurate as they are not to scale. A disclaimer written on the montage indicates this to be the case.
- No negotiations with us regarding the siting of the turbines close to our property. We are located approximately 2.5-3 kms from the nearest turbines.
- No neighbouring agreement has been discussed, offered or forwarded to us for consideration.
- No indication from the proponent if there will be 24-hour flashing navigation lights installed on the Turbine tower.
- The EIS does not include photos of the wind turbine with a height of 220m which is deceptive

- **Noise Impacts**

- We will be exposed to noise impacts from turbines from the north, east and west. There will be no respite as wind from any direction will carry the noise to our property.
- No accurate indication of the noise levels has been provided to us by the proponent
- No mitigation measures have been discussed with us in regards to noise impacts.
- The proponent has failed address the impact of blasting during construction.
- The proponent has not addressed the noise impacts of batching plants, crushing and screening.

- **Heavy Vehicle access/Dust**

- Hebden Road has been designated as the only heavy vehicle access road for the development. Construction, installation and ongoing maintenance of the

approximately 60 Turbines, with hundreds of heavy truck movements making the hazardous and unsafe.

- Construction of some 60km of unsealed gravel access tracks, clearing of vegetation and preparation of Turbine pads will create dust during construction, and ongoing dust issues during the life of the wind farm when wind conditions are present, or maintenance vehicle movements occur.
- Dust will be created during construction of electrical substations, overhead and underground power lines to connect the project to the grid
- Truck movements for transport of earthmoving equipment for construction, Turbine housings and blades, cartage of gravel for access roads, cartage of water to the concrete batching plants for production of concrete will make the road hazardous to local traffic and school bus movements, and cause major inconvenience and delays for all local residents.

- **Environmental Issues**

- Damage to the environment from clearing of vegetation to facilitate construction of roads and Turbine pads
- Pollution of local creeks and waterways from runoff after vegetation has been cleared, which will impact farm water supply quality
- Increased bush fire risk due to Turbine fires, and restricted aerial water bombing capability in the area due to the huge Turbines
- Impacts of noise and dust to Ravensworth State Forest which is an important ecological community, Hillcrest Biodiversity offset area which is a commonwealth approved koala habitat, local properties where there have reported sightings of koalas, and local birdlife including rare wedge tailed eagles and sea eagles as mentioned above
- No information provided on the vibration impacts that blasting will have on our residence
- No plan in place to dismantle and recycle the Turbines at end of life, liability for this lies with the landowner who may not have the financial resources to dismantle the Turbines.

- **Transparency**

- No transparency or oversight regarding landowner agreements. Property owners required to sign confidentiality agreements and not discuss with community members.
- No transparency or oversight regarding neighbour agreements. Property owners required to sign confidentiality agreements and not discuss with community members.
- Wind data was gathered from a monitoring tower constructed without Council Development Application (DA) approval. This data is now being used to compile the recently released Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- No representation from local council at community meetings to address resident concerns
- No information released by Councils to the general public

- **Land Values**
 - The proponent has not proven that land values would not be negatively impacted.
 - Plans were in development to build a residence using the stunning views surrounding the property but with the visual impact of seven turbines to the west, north and east and the obvious drop in value of the property, this has been put on hold.
 - The importance of food security is foundational and the upper Hebden area is highly productive in its ability to provide high quality, naturally produced beef.
- **Sources of Energy**
 - The use of Redbank as a biomass power station negates the need to develop another wind farm locally and also provides significantly more permanent jobs.
 - The recent approval of Illawarra hydrogen and gas capable power station will provide the necessary replacement energy for the closure of the Liddell Power Station.
 - Wind farms have proved to be a fluctuating and unreliable source of energy, dependent on favourable wind conditions to generate electricity.
- **Personal Impact**
 - The dust from the construction and gravel maintenance road will adversely impact my husband's asthma because the westerly winds will funnel it directly over our home. Currently we are not impacted by mining dust because they are located to the south of the property.
 - The loss of the visual beauty over 270 degrees of our property is irreparable; the dark night skies will be destroyed by the aviation night lights on the wind turbines, the spectacular sunsets impacted by 220m turbines, regardless of the wind direction we will have noise because we are surrounded.
 - To transform a one lane (Scrumlo) road into a major, multi vehicle thoroughfare leaves residents in constant fear of accidents.
 - What used to be a close community, where friendships were life-long has been broken by the underhanded tactics of the proponents causing division and misinformation.
 - The obstruction caused by the turbines for fighting bushfires from the air should not be minimized particularly given the recent widespread devastation across our state.
 - It is stated by the landowner in The Hunter River Times whose property the major access road goes through that there is rainforest, koala habitat and giant grass tree forests which would ultimately be lost should the project go ahead.
<https://hunterrivertimes.com.au/not-for-sale-great-homes-money-cant-buy/>

Plans we had to rebuild the residence on the property to secure our long-term future and have a safe place for retirement are now in question. Many issues remain unclear and unresolved. We now face the real prospect of constant visual, noise, dust and traffic impacts from this

proposal. The photographs below show the aspects from our homes which will be affected by turbines:

Western Aspect



Northern Aspect



Eastern Aspect

