

Meg Robertson
816 Muscle Creek Rd
Muscle Creek NSW 2333
Director Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment OPIE
1/5/2021

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 Dwelling No, G17-1 as per EIS Bowmans Creek Wind Farm.

Objection

I have made Muscle Creek my home for the past 2 years, working in the local area and running our family farm.

My family purchased this property in Sept 2018 from Landmark Harcourts 88 Kelly St Scone who did not disclose to us that there was a proposed wind farm on our doorstep.

We chose this location due to the availability of my chosen profession, the proximity to a local town, the peace and quite of this unique valley and picturesque mountains, the uninterrupted night skies and magnificent view of our planets stars, and to pursue my dream of a Horse property to grow and share my knowledge of horsemanship and the experience of cattle farming and its operations.

I have concerns around the additional traffic and safety on our road, unsuitable site for turbines, harm to the aesthetics and character of the Bowmans Creek and Muscle Creek areas, impact and damage to the environment and health impact concerns. The close proximity of turbines to people.

Health Impacts

I am a shift worker having to sleep both day and night, quality of sleep is an essential part of my job. As part of my commitment to work and Occupational Health and Safety, I have an obligation to be "Fit for Duty" at the beginning of every shift. Getting adequate quality sleep to manage fatigue during work hours is imperative. I am concerned about the noise from the turbines and blades making a "whipping type sound" may effect my sleep therefore my ability to attend work "Fit for duty " and with adequate restful, uninterrupted sleep.

Shadow Flicker

This is another concern for my health and Fit for work obligations. How am I to adequately understand if shadow flicker will be a problem at my home. There has been nothing supplied to us which shows what we can expect in relation to shadow flicker. The photo montages which were supplied to us by Epuron December 2019, Dwelling ID: G17-1 have not been amended and supplied to us since this date so do not show accurate numbers of turbines, positioning, height, lighting, circumference, or possibility of shadow flicker.

On the photo montages supplied by Epuron It states.

"A photomontage can never show exactly what a wind farm will look like in reality due to factors such as different lighting, weather and seasonal conditions which vary through time and resolution

of the image. Also, a static image cannot convey turbine movement. The images provided give a reasonable impression of the scale of the Turbines and the distance to turbines, but can never be 100% accurate"

I am sure that there is technology that could be used to show a more accurate and to scale picture of what our view will be and to show times of day that shadow flicker will impact our home.

Visual Impact

The offer of vegetative screening to block the visual eye saw of 19 turbines from our home was just a ridiculous joke. These turbines are being placed on a ridge about 250m above the level of our home plus the 220m of the height of the turbine making the total height above our home close to 500m (this is an estimate by us as we have not ever been advise the exact heights) please tell me where in the world there is a vegetative screen grown to block out an eye saw towering that high??

The visual impact is not just of the individual turbines, it's the multiple substations, transmission lines heading offsite, connections between turbines and substations, maintenance facilities construction compounds, new and multiple access tracks to each turbine, additional monitoring towers, the visual impact of increased traffic, construction vehicles. And the devastation view of the clearing of land, vegetation making these facilities stand out even more again. The list is ongoing and will be for the entirety of the life span of the wind farm. And who will be responsible for the decommissioning??

Traffic and Transport

I own and train young and mature horses from my home in Muscle Creek, often riding along Muscle Creek rd. The locals passing in cars know how to drive safely around horses and I feel safe getting my horses used to this kind of riding. The increase of drivers who are not familiar with this type of hazard on our "no through road" will make it a danger to myself and other residents. There are young and old residents that regularly walk, run, exercise, ride bikes, horses and exercise their dogs along the road.. It is also a place where cattle are let to graze on the road edges at times.

Having additional traffic during construction and ongoing maintenance will severely impact these routines.

Environmental Impacts

We have a great variety of fauna in the surrounding hills and gullies. It would be devastating to see these animals forced to relocate, if they survive the initial impacts of construction, and then the blade strikes to birds.

Then there is the concern for the massive water supply needed in the construction phase? We are still in drought and the Hunter is currently still on water restrictions?? Where do they intend to get this from?

You are mor than welcome to visit our property during the decision process and see for yourself why this should not happen in this location.

We are not experts in any of the fields related to this EIS studies and rely on your Government department to look after our interest, being health, visual amenity, land value, and personal wellbeing.