

BOWMAN CREEK WIND FARMS OBJECTION LETTER

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Date: 11/05/2021

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 we **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the Bowmans Creek Windfarm proposal ID No.SSD 10315

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

Do not include any personal details you do not wish to be made public

Dayne & Shona Claydon

SUBMISSION OF OBJECTION LETTER

I hereby declare that we object to the Bowmans Creek Windfarm proposal ID no.SSD 10315
Surburb: Muscle Creek, NSW 2333

We purchased our property in Muscle Creek, back in 2013, to give ourselves and our children a life that involved adventure, freedom from the general life of being constricted within a town environment. We purposely brought in Muscle Creek due to no further mining would be approved in this area. Over the last 7years, we have developed an appreciation of the beautiful landscape the peaceful tranquillity this area brings, not only to us, but to the Native Australian Wildlife.

Since living on this extraordinary property, the native vegetation that exist on our property, has become a safe haven and home for the many diverse Australian Native and sadly endangered animals inhabiting it.

After seeking the assistance from Hunter Local Lands, to investigate the native flora and fauna that inhabit the area before we even considered clearing any vegetation and what the consequences of this clearing would cause these native animals, ultimately made our decision to reduce the area of clearing to only cleaning up of current access roads around our boundary and to ensure that our fire break was within standard under the local bushfire regulation, due to being in a high fire danger zone.

Below is a list of Australian Native Animals, some classified as endangered, that have been found and currently call our property home;

- Powerful Owl – Endangered Species in NSW under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Barking Owl – Endangered Species in NSW under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Tawny Frogmouth Owl
- Boobook Owl
- Various Hawks
- Wedge Tail Eagle
- Peregrine Falcon
- Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
- Black Cockatoo – Vulnerable in NSW under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Galah
- Magpie
- White Winged Chough
- Native Miner
- Australian King Parrot
- Rosellas
- Cockatiel
- Various Grass Parrots
- Butcher Bird
- Currawongs
- Wood Ducks
- Quails

Native marsupials and mammals some classified as endangered or vulnerable that have been found and currently call our property home;

- Ring Tailed Possum
- Brush Tailed Possum
- Feather Tailed Glider
- Squirrel Glider
- Brush Tailed Phascogale – Threatened Species
- Yellow Bellied Glider – Threatened Species
- Eastern Pygmy Glider – Threatened Species

- Long Nosed Bandicoot
- Marsupial Mouse
- Flying Fox
- Micro Bats – Threatened Species
- Native Wombat
- Native Echidna
- Red Neck Wallaby
- Grey Kangaroo
- Spotted-tailed Quolls – Threatened Species

Native reptiles some classified as endangered, that have been found and currently call our property home;

- Eastern Bearded Dragon
- Frilled Neck Lizard
- Monitor Lizard
- Eastern Blu Tongue Lizard
- Various Skinks
- Leaf Tail Gecko
- Broad Tailed Gecko

Please also note that all photos taken and listed in the EIS were whilst the country was in drought, they do not represent the true landscape of the area.

I was horrified when I learned about the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm and how it was going to change Muscle Creek as I know it. We are very familiar with the area and have no trouble determining where the proposed turbines will be situated. The proposed 220m high turbines on the tops of the surrounding Ridgelines of Muscle Creek will be prominent, obvious and impossible to ignore.

The impact that the proposed turbines will have on our native a bird life, ultimately will be detrimental to their survival and the ongoing impact this will then have on our native wildlife, will forever be changed and unable to recover in the area if this proposed windfarm goes ahead.

The clearing needed for this proposed Wind Farm Site also threatens **Koala Colonies** known to exist within the area. One known Colony is found East of our property on Beggary Creek on a host's property which was referred to by the "Hunter River Times". Last year during the 2019-20 "Black Summer" Bushfires we as a Nation mourned over countless images of burnt Koalas. How can Bowman Creek Wind Farm be allowed to affect the survival of this Iconic Australian Animal, that is now classed as a vulnerable species.

Further investigation into the endangered and vulnerable wildlife listed above, that call the proposed area home, we encourage further independent assessments to be completed.

The visual impact, turbine noise, sun flicker and increase risk of bushfires will definitely decline the value of properties in this area. This will financially destroy the people within this effected community who have saved all their lives to secure their piece of paradise. We are currently in the process of planning with council to build our forever home on our piece of paradise, that we have worked hard to secure for our family, could now be a major loss in value due to Epuron consultant stating themselves, that our property has the most to lose with the visual impact of our property due to having the best position in the valley and view of the ridgeline leaves us stressed and loss of sleep that our future is now in jeopardy.

Adding to the damaging visual impact of 18 Turbines to be located less than 3km and the furthest of only 4.4km from our home, we will also be faced with the constant noise these turbines are well known for, is already causing distress to how that will affect our family and our mental health.

Bushfires have been a seasonal threat for as long as I can remember and we can all remember the devastation caused by the 2019-20 Bushfires. The fact that Bowmans Creek Wind Farm is allowed to be placed in communities where it affects the potential Bushfire aerial support and increases possible loss of lives is unacceptable.

We have noticed in the last 7 years that as more properties were sub divided and as more families moved into Muscle Creek water availability has become limited. The Creek stops flowing earlier and earlier each summer and starts flowing later and later each winter. Epuron state in the EIS that water required during the construction of the Wind Farm will be drawn from Host's Dams under the relevant harvestable rights order. If these dams are in the catchment area of Muscle Creek, then this already stressed waterway will suffer and so will the residents of the Muscle Creek area.

We would like to make clear that we are not against renewable energy, just the placement of this particular one on top of these rural communities. Placing this wind farm in this location based on Wind Availability or Power Station Grid convenience are NOT good enough reasons to do so. Land leased by mining companies that have no communities within the leased land, that is still close to the Power station Grid, existing monitoring stations that also have the potential to use Liddell water supply would be less detrimental to value of landowner's properties, our native endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna, but the visual impact would be limited and not visible to the local surrounding communities. We are NOT an insignificant group of communities worth sacrificing for the better of all.

We strongly encourage that the positioning of this windfarm be reconsidered to areas that have already been affected by mining and currently in the rehabilitation stages. The Bowman Creek Ridgeline, that's stretches from Hebden, through Muscle Creek, out to McCully's Gap, is one of the most beautiful and one of the last natural untouched ridgelines within our community. The destruction that the wind turbines will cause this landscape and to current landowner's dwellings and infrastructure by blasting the naturally formed mountains, to enable access to established construction buildings and turbines, will be detrimental to the natural formation of this land forever, potentially causing further earthquakes in the area also, makes the impact of this proposed windfarm, just as destructive as the current mining companies.

We would like to also point out that the consultation process that Epuron has shown landowners that have no proposed Wind Turbines on their properties has been a disgrace. Limited attempts have been made to discuss with those in the community has been less than forthcoming. Epuron consultants should be ashamed of how they have handled such a life changing matter to the community and the mental stress this has caused.



Shona Claydon



Dayne Claydon