

I live on one of a large number of rural lifestyle properties in the Kentucky area that will be severely impacted in a negative way should the proposed Thunderbolt development be approved.

There are koalas that live in the area where the Thunderbolt project is to be constructed and given the devastation that has occurred to the number of koalas in recent years due to bushfires, there will be a further significant negative impact on this species, along with many others including birds.

People who would normally be attracted to purchase rural lifestyle blocks will avoid the area of Kentucky due to wind turbines destroying the ambience of the district. The proposed turbines are 6 x times higher than high voltage power lines already in place and will destroy the beauty of the area.

More and more is being learned from countries like the United States with regard to the impact of infrasound from turbines, the grinding of the gears of the turbines, shadow flicker from the spinning blades and other noise emanating from the motion of the turbines and the health impacts on people that live alongside wind turbines.

Kentucky will be surrounded by turbines coming north from Bendemeer, west from Walcha and east from Kyabra; the proposed development is much too large and the number and size of turbines are a huge concern to the community.

It is proposed that 32 turbines will be built on 'Kyabra' to the west of the New England Highway (Stage 1), and another 33 on various properties to the east of New England Highway (Stage 2) later.

The turbines will be the largest turbines ever installed on land in Australia, reaching 270 m at the blade tip. This is the same size as the tallest high-rise building in Sydney.

Every turbine will have a red light on its hub that will activate and flash at night amounting to 70 red flashing lights at approximately 180m above ground level, impacting the night sky in the Kentucky area.

A substantial gravel road network (55 km for Stage 1 of the project) will be constructed within the catchment to transport the concrete and the huge metal components of the turbines. This will also have a negative impact on koalas and other wildlife as well as the possible issues of soil erosion.

Whilst the proponents of wind power are passionate about "green" power, the reality is anything but green in respect to the construction of the turbines and the road network.

It will require the construction of massive steel and concrete footings, requiring granite rock blasting to install. Each turbine will require approximately 2,990 tonnes of concrete ($1,300 \text{ m}^3 \times 2.3 \text{ t/m}^3$) plus approximately 900 tonnes of steel reinforcing as ballast.