

Submission re Thunderbolt Wind Farm) (SSD-10807896)

Applicant Neoen Australia Pty Ltd

Location New England Highway, Kentucky, approximately 50 km north-east of Tamworth

Council Area Tamworth Regional and Uralla Shire

I object to this industrial development on many grounds including:

- The developer, Neoen, has failed in its duty to liaise in a meaningful way with the community. One on One meetings with potential hosts or near neighbours does not meet the requirement for meaningful engagement. The community has consistently demanded public meetings which the developer Neoen has consistently refused to hold. To be meaningful engagement must meet the needs of both parties Neoen has failed.
- There is no social license for this development the Kentucky community does not want this development which will have a negative impact on our rural-lifestyle landscape beauty and amenity of our homes and a reduction in property values as seen overseas.
- The area proposed for the turbines is prone to erosion and 50Kms plus of new dirt roads along ridge lines is likely to increase runoff from rainfall, increased soil erosion and damage to sensitive Looanga Creek and Carlisles Gully.
- The business model of the REZ was implemented with no community consultation; it is clearly unfair to concentrate industrial developments in small specific rural communities where the cumulative effects will be horrendous. Planning for 590+ industrial sized turbines in the area 70Kms radius Bendamere to Walcha and Uralla clearly demonstrates how flawed the REZ model is. It is unacceptable that the REZ model considers rural communities collateral damage to renewable energy.
- There is a very real risk aerial firefighting will be limited by the presence of turbines in what is a bush fire prone area which may result in the village of Kentucky being put at great risk during bush fire season.
- The developers EIS documents how they will deal with the koalas in the proposed site. This process is completely at odds with community expectations and requirements as stated the developer will use heavy machinery to shake fauna including sugar gliders and koalas from trees before and during clearing, this is barbaric and will likely result in injury and death of critically endangered and protected koalas.
- Noise both audible and infrasound has a negative impact on communities, this is well documented overseas but it appears developers are very selective when it comes to the issue of noise, luckily the recent Supreme Court case in Victoria re the Baulk Hills turbines has clarified that noise is more than just a compliance issue rather the potential for nuisance noise from turbines is very real and need not to be tolerated by communities. I question how a Noise Assessment can accurately calculate likely noise pollution from turbines which are the tallest every used on land within Australia
- Both the developer and NSW Planning have discriminated against some sections of the Kentucky community, particularly the elderly, in the assumption that everyone has the knowledge and capacity to receive information and communicate using computers and the internet. In our community internet access is limited and in some places non-existent. The developer has consistently relied on electronic communication with the community which has had the effect of excluding some community members and when NSW Planning was asked to provide paper/hard copy of their online submission form there was no response this lead to a community member developing a form which has been used by many members of the community to ensure their concerns are heard.

The NSW Planning process clearly discriminates against communities:

Developers is allowed months/years to develop their EIS

The Department will take weeks/months to review the EIS

Communities are allowed 28 days to respond to the 2000+ page EIS document

Unfair Process by NSW Planning

An application for extension to the EIS display period was made and refused

No explanation for refusal is provided despite request for this information and in fact
the legislation does have an allowance for such an

This industrial development is totally inappropriate in our rural community it is
Too Close, Too Big And Too Loud.

I ask that a moratorium be placed on the Thunderbolt Energy Hub to allow for proper
community consultation.