

From: Cameron Way
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Ben Lomond 2365

23 May 2022

Re: Thunderbolt Wind Farm, EIS. Application No: SSD-10807896.

I have one key comment to make for the NSW Planning Dept reviewers of this EIS.

Relevant position to make comment:

I am a community rep on the Rangoon Windfarm, and as then, Chairperson of Ben Lomond Landcare Group. Also a passionate believer in the need to migrate to renewables, constructively, responsibly. In our rural community over 2021, we had to step in as a community to gain effective consultation for the Rangoon project. We also had the additional benefit of an experienced planner to advise us of the CCC process. In view of this situation, as a community member, I have a more experienced understanding than most community members of the CCC process and NSW planning process for a windfarm project.

This personal position requires me to bring the following aspect of this EIS to the reviewer's attention.

My concern:

To my understanding, the CCC for this Thunderbolt project has consisted almost entirely of wind farm hosters. That is, those set to gain considerable personal financial gain from this project being approved, as opposed to broader community representatives.

Our local Landcare Groups contact with concerned community people in this Thunderhold wind farm project area, there appears very poor and ineffective community consultation. Even in the most basic education or even awareness of the CCC or the planning process. Let alone the project proposed itself.

More critically, to my understanding, only in recent months has a community person engaged to be on the CCC as a non financial interest community representative. Having done so, they had great difficulty obtaining CCC meeting minutes or reports. When seeking these, there was an effort by the CCC Chair to immediately remove this community person from the CCC. Clearly if true, this is serious failure of due process.

I suggest this situation needs NSW Planning Dept review group's close attention in regard to fair and due process.

It is so important to the success of the REZ and migration to 8 GW renewable energy projects that communities potentially impacted are informed and appropriately engaged. This being also a key requirement of the NSW State Significant Development planning approval process.

If the situation of this CCC is as dire as community ground knowledge reports, then perhaps a rejection of the current EIS is required until such community consultation and CCC is conducted properly.

To my view it would be of value to send a message to other major proponents that community consultation has to be done properly, genuinely. This saving the Planning Dept, and the lives of community members, a lot of wasted time and stress from here forward.

Regards,



Cameron Way.
Ben Lomond.