



Coolah District Development Group Inc

PO BOX 106 COOLAH NSW 2843

P. 0458 774 519



16th June 2022

Valley Of the Winds (VOW) – EIS SUBMISSION SSD-10461

BACKGROUND

Our community has already one approved state significant renewable energy project, the Liverpool Range Wind Farm, though they have now submitted a modification increasing the size and capacity of proposed turbines. In isolation this project with its approved corridor to supply the power to the grid, was generally accepted by the community and hosts landholders. The governments have since applied the REZ overlay on our community, so far attracting eight additional renewable projects. Our community has no way of comprehending the cumulative impacts by this Valley of the Winds Project or the seven other project along with the proposed Energy Co study corridor for high KV power lines to cross our rural community connecting project to project, REZ to REZ and the network as a whole. Therefore, it appears unreasonable for the DPE to expect the community to be able to provide EIS feedback that is informed.

At a recent community meeting the following issues were raised regarding the renewable developments/ power transmission line study corridor and the Renewable Energy Zone and REZ to REZ connection.

1. **TOO MANY UNKNOWN impacts for our community from another renewable energy project in our community. Being a part of several renewable energy projects along with being a part of the Energy Co transmission line study corridor and the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ) need to be addressed; Page 1 of 3 socially, health, transport, accommodation, housing fluctuation and availability.**
2. The negative impacts from **renewable energy projects** with the cumulative impact on our regional community have not been adequately communicated.
3. **Impact of this project VOW on prime productive agricultural land (finite resource), disabling of bush fire management resources and the demise of our rural communities.**
4. **The placement of infrastructure connections and lack of local held community consultation specific to those impacted.**
5. Lack of community understanding of the cumulative impacts from the CWO REZ and transmission line corridors due to the complexity around the **myriad of organisations** and government departments involved and their roles.
6. Community perceives a **lack of wholistic planning**, local communication, and consultation.
7. Developers planning wind turbines adjacent to cropping country thus disabling aerial agricultural applications with 250 metre high towers located within the 1 km airspace required for fully laden agricultural aircraft.
8. Concerns increased **bush fire risk**, reduced capacity for aerial firefighting.

9. Lack of **'easy access'** communication regarding the myriad of developments. Most community members would not know how to access the project information through planning portals.
10. There is **significant opposition to the declared study zone for Energy Co** for the connection of two proposed wind farm projects in Coolah Uarbry Energy Hub connection. Request the study area be revised through consultation.
11. Voluntary Planning agreements (VPA) with VOW should negotiated with both local government adequate local community input. Example of the diminishing VPA community benefits as the project changes numbers of turbines though not diminishing impacts. Only benefit community after the development has commenced. We need resources now. You are all paid in your jobs to review these developments. We are running our farms and businesses and have giving significant amounts of time and energy to navigate these projects.
12. The proposed transmission line of high voltage overhead power lines will cause numerous impediments to the community as a destination with a National Park, highly resourced farming enterprise and disable significant bush fire management resources.
13. Under resourced community incorporated auspice group. All this EIS feedback burdens our already exhausted volunteers. Our community group has to govern many (not for profit) groups/committee as a result of evolving legislation and compliance limiting our ability as a community to function; We require adequate resources and funds be made available for communities/groups to deal with the development? ie; Community Consultation Committees, it is unreasonable that the two community representatives on these committees receive a sitting fee, yet everyone else on the committee is remunerated through their employment or capacity?
14. Is it unreasonable to have the developers consider how they can assist regional communities hosting the renewable energy projects be powered by renewable energy? Ie; Local battery hubs.
15. How and when will we as citizens be valued for our contribution of the lands in which we live? When **value** is expressed as it should be, one should listen openly, empathise, and understand ones concerns by taking them into consideration in the decision-making process. Our concerns are not being considered as there is no evidence demonstrating how they have addressed and mitigated community concerns so far.
16. What are Impacts of 100% foreign owned company operating an industry over our community?
17. We as a community have been significantly over stressed and conflict has occurred neighbour to neighbour. Individual increase of stress levels reported to health professional as a direct result of these development projects.

Required outcomes

Extend the time for the EIS to have the message to clearly promote cumulative impacts locally so individuals can clearly either support, object or participate in the renewables. The community may be happy with one or two projects not several.

Provide a continued place of consultation for all renewable/ power developments in Coolah with reasonable available access.

Conduct a whole REZ impact study: include community, cultural, agricultural impacts.

Demonstrate how the new study area for the transmission line is proved the best location.

Resource our community now to deal with these significant developments.

Please have this put-on record that the connection of two wind farms has existing the valuable farming land use threatened.

Personally, as our home amenity is threatened after 15 years of negotiations with developers and to then receive Energy Co notice of additional impacts of a study zone for high powered KV lines has sent me to exhaustion with a significant high level of anxiety.

Yours sincerely.

Elly Cook

Chair – Coolah District Development Group

M: 0468 727111 E:ellycook8@gmail.com E: chair@coolahddg.onmicrosoft.com

