

"Glenwood"

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Mr Iwan Davies

Uungula Wind Farm Planning Officer,

NSW Department of Planning

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Dear Mr Davies,

RE: UUNGULA WIND FARM _ SSD 6687

Submission in response to the E.I.S proposal for CWP Pty Ltd at Wellington. Uungula Wind Farm by Phillipa Smith, resident of Twelve Mile Road

I oppose the Uungula wind farm for many reasons, my main reason is that we live in a unique and pristine part of NSW, Australia and to build a Wind Farm in this area is permanent destruction of our beautiful landscape and environment that can never be repaired.

Our property Glenwood is a 2972-hectare property located north east of Wellington, approximately 8.2km from the entrance to the proposed Uungula Wind Farm. Our country is undulating to hilly and supports vast areas of grassy woodlands, ideal for breeding merino sheep which is our main enterprise. The Smith Family have lived and worked here on Glenwood for approximately 150 years. My husband and I are passionate advocates of regenerative agriculture and we have developed a grazing approach that has regenerated the land substantially improved our productivity.

Glenwood is a largely native system located in the grassy woodland biome of NSW and we manage our property towards native systems.

Glenwood has been assessed by a trained ecologist, using Farm Map4D satellite data (a tool used to analyse the condition of land over time, to track historical changes in ground cover and create local and regional comparisons) and on property field assessment. According to this report (which can be provided if required) 84% of our landscape is transitioning into new ecological states – with increased canopy cover, improved native species richness (numbers) and improved native ground cover levels. These transitions are helping restore the endangered Grassy Woodlands. A nature capital accounting approach to measurement of environmental performance suggests that Glenwood produces negligible air pollution, water pollution or waste.

Glenwood generates approximately 36kg of greenhouse gases per kg clean wool – this is approx. one half of the amount estimated by Kering (<https://www.kering.com/en/sustainability>) for greenhouse gas emissions from Regenerated Landscapes, and 28% of emissions from traditional farming landscapes.

A conservative estimate of the natural value affected by Glenwood's business operation suggests it has impacted the ecosystem services by an average of 44% this is not permanent and will reduce over time and is compared to 80% from other conventional wool producers (estimated by Kering for land use impact).

Glenwood pastures are more resilient than traditional producers with up to 60 different grass species in paddocks, maintaining ground cover and enhancing diversity of pasture base is a big management focus.

Glenwood is a highly functional Grassy Woodlands ecosystem producing a range of ecosystems services while providing grazing for food and fibre production, which is the foundation of the Glenwood business.

Ecosystem services support both quality and survivability of life

1. Provisioning services (food, fibre and forage production)
2. Regulating services (capacity of an ecosystem to support processes such as water purification, carbon storage and sequestration, micro-climate regulation, pollination and pest control)
3. Habitat services such as biodiversity protection and cultural services such as spiritual and aesthetic values, learning opportunities.

Properties such as Glenwood and surrounds including the properties that the Uungula wind turbines are proposed to be situated on are diverse and highly functional Grassy Woodlands and are so important to not only our local but state and national environments. They can provide a range of ecosystems services at the same time as the provide grazing for food and fibre production (McIntyre et al 2002).

The Grassy Woodlands areas in Australia have been estimated to have been cleared by 90% - it is estimated that there is only 10% of Grassy Woodland areas left in Australia.

As recently as last weekend 28th June an ecologist who is surveying biodiversity offsets in the area believes Glenwood is our area is one of the unique Grassy woodland areas left in Australia with over 250 different bird species at this stage in the survey

My point to the information I have given to you above is significant as the Uungula wind farm will have a long-term significant impact not only on Glenwood but also the properties in this unique part of Australia, it will long term have a significant impact on the reduction in the actual functional Grassy Woodland areas along the Twelve Mile Road and area and therefore in NSW and Australia.

I am currently a member of the CCC committee for the Uungula wind farm as a community member, neighbour and an opposer of the Wind Farm. I am also a member of the Bodangora (Infigen Wind Farm at Wellington), a member of numerous Wellington and DRC council committees, a mother of 5 children, and a land owner and small business owner.

The Uungula wind farm has been floating around for the past 15 years, we first dealt with the company "Wind Prospect" before CWP took over. My husband Norman and I feel we are able to actually give an unbiased opinion in regards to being a proponent and a neighbour as initially we

were offered to have up to 10 of the wind turbines on Glenwood of which we said NO thank you, we were then last year offered a neighbourhood agreement again we said NO thank you. My point here is we could have said yes and taken the money but we do not believe you get money for nothing. We also love the land and where we live.

I cannot understand why our government is hell bent on putting up numerous Solar and Wind Farms – and believe that this is going to be better long term for our environment. If the government was serious which ever side of politics you sit – one would look at Nuclear. We have a plant in Sydney that has been there for many years and works extremely well – and NO emissions....and is that not what we ultimately want to achieve?? Why not spend the time, have the conversation and educate the people of Australia of the benefits long term?

If you approve this Wind Farm which I assume you in the planning department will – be it on your heads – I only wish you would be around in 30 – 50 years' time to be made accountable of your actions and the decisions that you make today.

Australia is one of the only countries to sign up to the Paris agreement who is currently meeting its target, whilst the majority are not and even the big game players like China and India have not even started, seriously you must take us for mugs.

To build Wind Farms and Solar Farms – I cannot even believe you should be allowed to call them farms as they are not farms, is not going to reduce our electricity bills and prices – so many of our population cannot even afford their electricity now in the current day – let alone when the government lets the coal fire power stations degenerate and not update and renew or build new efficient Coal fired power stations so we have reliable base load sources of electricity when the wind does not blow and the sun is not shining.

It is my understanding that our power in Australia comes from

91% Coal and Gas

4% Hydro

5% Wind and Solar

In 2017 Lord Ridley in the House of Commons asked “To the nearest whole number what % of the worlds energy was supplied by renewable energy?” and the answer was 0%

Wind = 0.46% and Solar = 0.35% of Global energy consumption.

In 2017 The Mineral Council of Australia analysis found that it would cost tax payers less to build a “Heli clean coal power plant” – of high efficiencies and low emissions than to subsidise renewable energy.

There are hundreds of these highly efficient and low emission coal fire power plants being built all around the world – Japan – China – India – Germany and NONE in Australia. It costs approximately \$2.2 billion to build a coal fire power station and YET it is estimated Australia will spend \$20 billion on renewable subsidies by the end of this year.

Coal produces electricity for approximately \$40 per megawatt hour and would meet our emissions target but no we are going gang busters to build Wind and Solar to produce electricity @ \$171 for Solar/ \$115 for Gas and \$81 - \$149 for Wind per megawatt hour.

We currently pay approximately 35 cents a kilowatt for electricity compared to in the USA where they pay 9cents a kilowatt for electricity....it does not make sense and this should be in the media every day – the people of Australia should know these facts but alas the media has been taken over by the left and the left pander to the Greens and activists

In 2018 the solar power subsidy from the government (TAX payers money) was \$1.2 billion

In 2018 the Wind power subsidy from the government (TAX payers money) was \$2.6 billion

\$3.8 billion of tax payers money to Foreign owned companies

That is equal to \$150 for every person or \$600 per family of 4 in Australia a year (and given the environment we are in at present – Covid-19 – and the unemployment at such high levels and not even the real unemployment level as until the Job Keeper subsidy stops we will have no idea) and my guess well there is not even 50% of Australians pay actual tax.

The fact that we export all our beautiful fine coal OS to China and India and Japan etc and then they use it to give their country and people cheap power and then they manufacture all the components of the Wind Turbines and infrastructure and the solar panels and infrastructure and then we import it all back at exorbitant cost to the Australian tax payer.

Please tell me what will have in 25 years + and at the end of the life time of these Wind and Solar Farms – when the components need replacing – who will remove the old – where will they be placed – how will they be recycled? We do not know and given the history of these foreign owned renewable companies – they are sold and re sold until the end up shelf company worth zip and do not have the money to remove and recycle just look at the other counties who have gone down this path before us e.g. – The US and Germany. That is conveniently kept out of the media and pushed under the carpet with assurances by the companies at the commencement of the project that this will not be an issue and is all covered in the contract. Hood winking the public with their promises of support, sponsorship of soccer teams and community events and money to the proponents. So much money that most people who are approached to be proponents cannot say no – and “all in the name of the environment and renewables and emissions and lowering targets” – ha what mugs you think we are.

If it is so good for the environment and wonderful for the communities you build them in why don't the proponents have them put on their places for \$1000 a year?..... ahhhh yes no if they were only allowed \$1000 a year compensation, I am not sure the so-called excuse its good for the community and our environment would fly.

Again, I can say this as we turned down up to 10 turbines @ approx. \$15,000 per year per turbine for 25 years – a lot of people would think we are crazy - \$150,000 a year - \$3.74 million dollars over 25 years for doing nothing – again - you don't get money for nothing.

Who do these politicians think they are telling us that you can graze your land and plant crops as normal with no affect short or long term on the land – animals – environment and the people???? Really – please show us a property before and long term after a wind or solar farm with an improved holistic outcome.

How dare the people who do not live here or have never been here (or for that matter some have never been over the blue mountains) who do they think they are making decisions about our land – our environment – our businesses – our families – our future. Those who sign off on this proposal – give approval/consent to this proposal – those who submit submissions in favour or the proposal who again have never been here.

How dare the politicians come and give reports and announcements of how DRC area will be the renewable capital – how wonderful it will be and they do not even live here. They get the majority on side – the council – the town folk – promising money – sponsorship – jobs – all a positive but at what cost. The offer to give local contracts – but ask many of the local tradies in regards to work during all projects in the last 15 years most of the workers are not from Wellington - Correction Centre – Bodangora Wind Farm – Wellington Solar Farm – and now Uungula Wind farm –ask them honestly why they are not working with these companies all throughout construction? Is it because the terms of condition and contracts (90 days) are too long for our local contractors to wait to be paid to actually pay their workers?

On the positive we have hundreds of workers in town which yes is good for the economy spending at our local supermarkets – pubs – motels – McDonalds - renting properties for the construction periods until they move on to the next project.

A breakdown of the employees at the Wellington Correctional Centre and the neighbouring Macquarie Correctional Centre of how many employees actually live in the old Wellington Council Area? This may show a trend – actual figures for Infigen Bodangora Wind Farm and how many of the workers at the Solar Farm being built at present are local Wellington residents. Or is it really just a PR job at the beginning to get the majority of residents over the line and believe it is better for Wellington Community. True figures in regards to local residents in local jobs at these projects would let us understand the trend of actually jobs by locals taken up with the Uungula wind farm.

With 8000+ residents in the old Wellington Council area it would be less than 100 people who would read any of the EIS's for The Wellington Correctional Centre – The Macquarie Correctional Centre – The Infigen Bodangora Wind Farm – The Wellington Solar Farm (presently being built) and now this project The Uungula Wind Farm – not many and who can blame them. These big companies like CWP come in with an EIS of 1500 pages and give you 8 weeks to put in a submission...no one has time to read these and the details and be all over it.

Why would you bother to read EIS's of 1500 pages - when these companies come in and pay the residents – proponents money that they cannot refuse – set up public meetings with the fancy seminars and information sessions – promising the world why wouldn't the lay person think OMG they are going to bring so much to our town and soccer club and eisteddfod then it is left up to the few members of the community who are adversely affected to oppose. Trying to explain it to others and people think oh well you could have got money – it won't affect you - they are not on your place – look at the jobs it is creating – the money that is coming into the town – the wind turbines are majestic to look at – and fair enough everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

But as I said before please don't take us all for mugs – why don't you spend the money if you must and build these Solar Farms and Wind Farms out in the bloody dessert where the land is arable and not prime agricultural or endangered land – spend the infrastructure to build the grids and substations and pipe lines – stay away from prime agricultural land – think of all our children and grandchildren and beyond future generations. Goodness they will be saying what was wrong with this generation – allowing this to happen – ruining prime agriculture and heritage unique areas with renewable energies that cost tax payers a enormous amount of money that are not owned by Australia – when all we need to do is educate the public and invest in Nuclear power or which we have the raw resources here in our own back yard.

1. Environmental/Ecological/Biodiversity Assessment:

As for this EIS – it is deplorable the Environmental assessment – is just a copy and paste job it is not from here to tick the boxes to make you job at the Planning department a tick tick tick. You must have this assessment re done. It states it was done in 2016 – now I have been married and living here for 25 years and no one has come onto our property to assess the ecological and environmental impact – given that we were at one stage a targeted proponent as were our neighbours to the south – east and north – and that we are neighbours to the final wind farm one would think the environmental and ecological assessment should have included some if not all of our property? NO and you will find as we have spoken last week to an ecologist the listing of endangered bird species is missing – why is this? Where is The Superb Parrot listed – Swift Parrot – The Regent Honey-eater – The Glossy Black Cockatoo - The Bush Stone Faced Curlew was sighted by my husband Norman in the last 2 years – The squirrel glider is believed to be living here – The Spotted Quoll (trapped by our neighbours and released in the past 2 years) – The Borroolong Frog - and none of these are listed – these species are all endangered and some the Bush Stone Curlew believed to be extinct.

The Superb Parrot is an endangered species and we are only 4 places in Australia where they breed – Tasmania – Boorowa – Murray/Edward River – they travel in huge flocks at night to seek the flowering trees and are known to be wiped out in wind turbines – but perhaps the CWP and their ecologists will tell you otherwise so you can tick the box and let it pass. **I implore you to delay consent until a full ecological and environment assessment is done again by a renowned ecologist** such as The Borroolong Frog is also said to be an inhabitant in this area – and an endangered species and they can be look for and listened to in from August through to the end of summer in their calling. **A detailed ecological assessment must be redone and you the planning department must do your due diligence to ensure this is done properly at least at 2 different times of the year to ensure all the endangered and threatened species are recognised – listed and protected here in our unique environment.**

2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment:

I would also ask the same as the Aboriginal assessment – why would you not have a local assessor do this? Some one who ancestors were born and bred here – why did CWP not engage Brad Bliss a local Wiradjuri aboriginal man? Again no one came to access our property when we were on the list as potential wind turbine proponents and given the ecological and environmental assessment is absolute rubbish how can we trust the rest are true and correct? Again, **this assessment must be checked to ensure its authenticity** - Can this be also checked perhaps with our local aboriginal elders and in particular Mr Brad Bliss of who is employed in this area and travels all over Eastern Australia to do this such work.

3. Traffic Management Plan:

As for the traffic management plan – please how can you actually give approval to this Ungula wind farm without a traffic management plan?

Do we have a right of actual reply if you give approval/consent?

How do we get in writing our concerns for the Cadonia Corner and Twelve Mile Road traffic – road closures – upgrades.

Traffic must NOT be allowed to use the eastern entry to the site – the use of The Gunnegaldrie Road from the Mudgee Road – The Uamby Road from Goolma and East of entrance down the Twelve Mile Road by workers during construction.

I would insist that these roads are unsafe and most unsuitable for the volume style of traffic proposed by CWP and should not be used.

The volume of traffic proposed, if it should travel by these routes would disrupt the orderly running of the properties affected e.g.; when mustering sheep and cattle to the yards and pose a threat to the users of the road in areas where it is not fenced off. The present casual usage by neighbours is big enough problem but a manageable one. At the moment the frequency of traffic allows this and is mainly neighbours and residents of Twelve Mile Road who have local knowledge.

None of these 3 roads are safe or should be used during construction or any time by the wind farm.

CWP state they will not allow traffic but what and how will they stop it if they do not have it in writing.

What do we do in 18 months' time – who do we approach? When we find they are doing so?

The EIS states this on page 339 – **the bold is what I strongly oppose to and will pursue.**

“The primary project site will only be accessed from a westerly direction (from Goolma Road along the Twelve Mile Road), except to allow local services &/or resource supplies located east of the primary project site only along Twelve Mile Road the opportunity to participate in the project. Therefore, **AN EXCEPTION (SIC) IS SOUGHT TO NOT PROHIBIT HEAVY AND LIGHT VICHICLES TO USE TWELVE MILE ROAD EAST OF THE PRIMARY PROJECT SITE ENTRY SHOULD SERVICE AND/OR RESOURCE SUPPLIERS BE IDENTIFIED”**

In the EIS - appendix L (SARSA Consulting) pp23 and 25 it is assumed that construction staff traffic distribution would be split equally between the eat (Gulgong-Mudgee area) and west (Wellington – Dubbo area) resulting in 120 construction staff vehicle movements twice / day (200 during peak staffing periods).

In addition, on P25 – Total light vehicle's per day trying to access the project site from the east would be 240/day rising to 400 in peak periods (as above) and 96 heavy vehicles' and on as yet unknown number of OSOM vehicles.

CWP in its EIS is seeking to direct this traffic down a path east of the project entrance 13.5km east at “Cadonia” corner. I would like to be assured that ALL traffic enters via Cadonia Corner

I would like to insist that the development consent for the project be dependent upon ALL wind farm traffic entry coming on the Goolma road NOT be allowed to enter or exit east of the project site on the Twelve Mile Road at any point, and only have access at “Cadonia” Corner.

4. Upgrades and Repairs to the Twelve Mile Road being conducted by DRC:

I also note there has been 2.4km section of the Twelve Mile Road to the entry of the Wind Farm being surveyed a month ago just a week prior to the EIS being released for the upgrade and repaired by the Dubbo Regional Council. It is very interesting – I have asked local – state and federal and no one seems to be able to tell me where this finding came from. If it is indeed rate payer's money – the surveyors on the road who I stopped and asked were unsure as to why this section on the

Twelve Mile Road – conveniently 2.4km prior to the entrance was actually being done. That there were plenty of areas in DRC council and gravel unsealed roads that this money could have been spent on....and that this section is really quite good for the average traffic of 1 movement per hour. To bring it up to standard is going to cost up to 1million dollars. Now don't get me wrong I do not have an issue with the road being repaired or upgraded – what I have an issue with is no one can tell me where the money came from and I would like it to be very transparent that it is nothing at all to do with Ungula Wind Farm and CWP. Because I would think that is not transparent – and rate payers' money not well spent – especially as CWP spending their millions to do the road up why would council bother to waste rate payers' money on 2.4km?

I would like in writing to where the funding came from to do this specific 2.4km and if it is from DRC and the DRC rate payers' money then I would like to be told in writing their reasons for upgrading this 2.4km please.

5. Proposed changes to “Cardonia Corner” the major entry of Windfarm traffic onto Twelve Mile Road:

This corner and proposed changes to it has a long history. The corner is sloped and various road authorities have tried to convert it into a T-Section

The “Cadonia Corner” (Cadonia being the name of the property where this occurs) joins a stright minor (Twelve Mile) road with a very curved major (Mudgee/Goolma) road which is serverly cambered to stop trucks doing 100KPH from rolling on the bend.

The Cardonia Corner has been ongoing for 50 years – 35 years – 25 years – 15 years – 8 years ago council and RMS have tried to make this into a T-intersection – and it has never worked. I have been involved in the last 2 interventions.

15 years ago when the Wellington Correctional centre/jail was being built the RMS was going to have part of the TMR closed and made into some type of T-intersection - and another option at the time was actually another route found – RMS have the details and plans of this where the Twelve Mile Road was proposed to veer to the right at the big tree (near Cardonia Corner) along the fence line and come in on top of the crest of the hill 250m to the right (Goolma side) of the now exit onto the Mudgee/Goolma Road. I assume it cost too much money and everyone said if it isn't broke why fix it and we were not amgulated and no governments could commit to doing it properly. Any way nothing was done basically the Mudgee/Goolma Road was upgraded and everything remined the same.

Since then a second jail has been built and the traffic obviously has increase and ridiculously dangerous in particular at change over shift times there are no merging or accelerating lanes an accident waiting to happen.

8 years ago, perhaps when the second jail was proposed council retied to close the TWR entry and go into a T-section again it was knocked on the head.

Here we are again I believe this is the 4th time in 3 decades, each time the local residents who drive the road (and have their family – parents – children - friends and the general public in their best interest) come out in force as unless it is going to be done properly (not by a text book T-section of which “I Cube” have done or from aerial photos or however it has been done) – they will come out again in force. You need to come and drive it at change over of shifts at the jail and the Solar Farm

and bring your L plate drivers and have them drive you. After that **you will see we the residents only have a safety issue and road issues at heart.**

In addition **visibility towards Goolma is barely 250metres**, a vehicle travelling at 100KPH will only take 9 seconds from being observed to the intersection site.

This may be enough time for a light vehicle (Car) which has started to turn from a stop before a truck appears coming over the crest on the hill to the right to safely turn.

There will not be enough safe time for heavier vehicle or a B-Double truck starting from a scratch and on a left hand slope (due to Camber) when there is no on coming traffic and suddenly one comes into view would have no hope of clearing the intersection in 9 seconds.

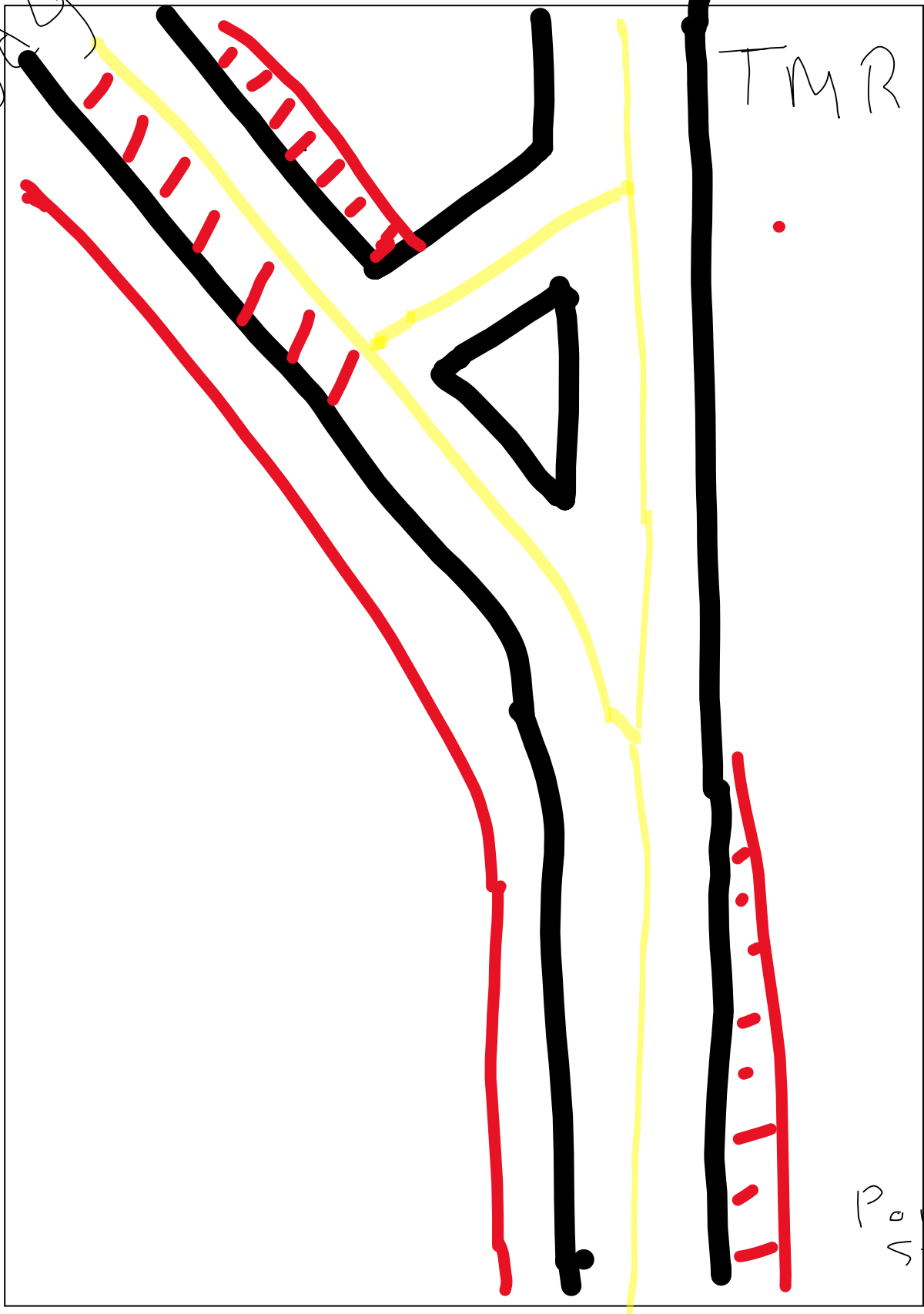
If the oncoming truck braked to avoid a collision it is very doubtful if they could stop in time to AVOID a collision and if they did brake suddenly there is likely to be a pile of vehicles behind them. None of these circumstances are likely to occur on a classic straight type intersection with no severe camber.

The visibility problem could be made less dangerous by signage both in the road surface and standing signs either limiting speed to 60 or 80KPH or indicating "Turning Traffic" and demanding SLOW DOWN. These I know would probably be ignored and randomly checked when the poor police or highway patrol have time. There does need to be signage both ways with warnings for traffic travelling in both directions of impending danger.

After meeting with an engineer from the RMS last week and discussing the safety and best outcome for all Road users now and into the future I propose the following and I implore you to investigate this.

As a mother of 5 children – 4 of which have recently learnt to drive and are on their P Plates I have a vested interest – especially with my 25 years of travelling at all hours and all speeds on this corner.

Mugel



TMR

Power
Station

WELLINGTON

I propose maintaining the corner as it is now with the following additions please:

- 1. A second lane from the electrical substation to 500metres past the Twelve Mile Rd/Cadonia Corner for all traffic travelling to Mudgee/Goolma to travel safely on**
- 2. The traffic lane that is there now becomes the lane that residents can travel onto the Twelve Mile Road safely – and be able sit safely at the Entrance to the Twelve Mile Road with their indicator on at all times.**
- 3. This would also become the lane for traffic travelling from Twelve Mile Road turning right towards Mudgee/Goolma the safety of turning right as it would become a merge lane into the main (and new) traffic lane – also offering safety.**
- 4. I also propose a merge lane coming from the Mudgee/Goolma side from the crest of the Hill at least 250metres for vechiles travelling towards Wellington and turning left into the Twelve Mile Road to slow down and safely turn left.**
- 5. And a merge/acceleration lane from the Twelve Mile Road onto the Mudgee/Goolma Road for 500 metres to the Wellington sub-station to allow traffic from the Twelve Mile Road to safely merge/accelerate onto the Twelve Mile Road.**

There is plenty of room on both sides of all the roadside for these very important additions to the intersection.

I do apologise for my 5-year-old drawing.

RED = new traffic lane and merging/acceleration lanes

Thank you for your time, I do realise that I cannot stop this development and the few submissions against this proposed Wind construction vandalism of our beautiful place in Australia and the world I do hope you stop and look at our suggestions and proposals as this will be forever and there will be no turning back once you give the tick of approval – please see that due diligence is at least done for our unique landscape and for the future generations.

Yours Sincerely

Phillipa Smith

Phillipa Smith
