

## Planning Assessment Commission Written Submission

### Rye Park Wind Farm

30<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Thank you to the Planning Assessment Commission board for this opportunity to make a submission in regards to the Rye Park Wind Farm.

As a member of the Rye Park community and a 5th generation landholder and a lifelong resident of the area I am disappointed with the recommendation to remove 25 turbines from the project.

This recommendation will remove approximately \$40,000 a year from the Rye Park Community part of the Community Enhancement Fund and another \$20,000 a year from the Upper Lachlan Shire area Community Enhancement Fund. In addition approximately \$400,000 a year of annual rent to landholders would be removed, money that would be spent both locally and regionally in the economy. In addition to this impact would be the loss of jobs both short term and long term in the community and the reduction in replacing green house producing electricity production by a renewable energy alternative.

Yet this recommendation to remove 25 turbines is based on a subjective issue because some people don't "like the look" of these turbines, in the same pen swipe denying people who do like the look of the turbines the opportunity of seeing them in their region. If this recommendation is upheld it will result in a reduction in the robustness and diversity of our local economy. At present the majority of landholder's income comes from primary production which is subject to vast fluctuations due to both market prices and seasonal conditions. Adding another income source to our area will help reduce the economic ups and downs we as a community currently experience.

There is no doubt that during construction there will be some disruption to some people's activities, including my own, yet I feel the objections about the visual impact are actually based on three factors, fear of change, jealousy and a misunderstanding of the culture and history of Rye Park.

Historically the land with the best soils and reliable water was the most valuable. These areas have not decreased in value but, with an income now possible on land that has a wind resource blowing across it, being the gravelly, dry ridgelines previously with low economic value, values and income generation has changed. These ridgelines now have a potential income source.

From the outside Rye Park appears to be a conservative rural village, yet our history and experiences show that we have been able to handle changes in the past and turn them into positives for our community.

To add my perspective to the issue of visual impact. I cannot be certain, but I think from my 2 properties I will be able to see all the turbines except for about 15 in the far south of the project. Yet none are on my property, so I will not be getting any annual rent from hosting turbines. I think they look majestic and show that this district is modern and trying to do something both for themselves and for our nation and planet. I look forward to construction of all 109 turbines and the benefits they will bring.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and opinions.

Andrew Southwell

