


Christian Wythes



To Planning & Assessment Commission

RYE PARK WIND FARM

Letter of Support.

I am writing to express my opinion on what an excellent opportunity the Rye Park Wind Farm project (RPWF) is for the community of Rye Park and the greater southern tablelands region of NSW and how I give it my full support. By way of introduction, I have grown up in the central region of NSW, from a farming back ground, this continues today after four generations of working and living off the land. My wife and I live and work with our three children on our property which does lie within the Wind Farm Project area. Farming is our life, and I wish to see it continue.

I strongly believe that the RPWF will give us the ability to continue to manage our land the best way possible.

I am in line for only two turbines as part of the RPWF development, not a lot, but I am thank-full for the opportunity.

I have been supportive of the project from its inception and whilst being involved in the negotiations between Tilt Renewables and the land managers, it has only strengthened my thoughts that as a renewable energy project the RPWF yields a large number of environmental, social and economic benefits with little downside.

I am a strong supporter of our community but I can see these small rural communities already suffering the ongoing issue of our younger generation leaving in search of better access to education services, career prospects or even just the basic services we all depend upon today, mobile and internet. I believe full credit should be given to innovative companies willing to come out to the rural regions to give our communities greater opportunities for sustainability.

With a daughter just about to finish school and two to follow behind her, both their ongoing career & education options locally are very limited; I for one will be using the additional income the wind farm development supplies to allow them all access to opportunities, which would be otherwise outside her reach.

I am fully supportive of these industries with their goals of prioritising local people for employment, long term commitment in maintaining a local presence and allowing the communities a sense of ownership in the successes the wind industry is credited for.

The issue of our local councils having to amalgamate due to some being deemed unviable; this does not bode well for the future of our smaller rural communities. The RPWF is one project that should

have the full support from all levels of government due to its commitment to provide ongoing financial assistance through their community enhancement funds.

We can all see these upfront economic benefits from the community funds, landholder lease payments and boosts to our local economy through employment, support of local businesses, both during construction and start-up phases, but it's the ongoing associated services that will be required for this development to transition to full operation that is being truly undervalued. With the length of the development being upwards of 30 years, this continued support should not be dismissed.

With all these factors in mind, my concern is, what the removal of these additional 25 turbines will place on the viability of the project as a whole, which in this current financial /political environment could be the trigger to stall or even stop the development. This cannot happen. We have an opportunity here in front of us that; I am certain will never happen again in my lifetime; to support the building of a sustainable energy project that will bring all the benefits both socially and economically to help our community grow.

Environment

I care for the environment, not only on how my management impacts the land, but how my decisions impact the greater landscape over time. Having personally reviewed the environmental reports for the project and followed with keen interest the standards with which the project held both the ecosystem & landscape impacts as its highest priority, in my professional opinion this project has surpassed all its requirements with voluntarily removing 17 turbines in maintaining these standards.

The wind turbines will add value to the already strong environmental assets not only on my land but within the greater southern tablelands region of NSW.

I also believe, the visual aspects of wind farms can be very subjective, but only focusing on the aesthetics and dismissing the true value of this development in its entirety, is truly being short-sighted in the opportunities placed before us. The wind turbines will not in any way detract my ability to manage my land nor will they in any sense impact on my enjoyment of this region, I rather think they will enhance it.

They will become a symbol of achievement, a demonstration of a small community taking renewable energy generation and the impending issue of climate change seriously and deciding to act rather than just talk about it.

I am asking that the consideration be made for the 25 turbines to be either reinstated or at least each of the 25 turbines be re-evaluated on the merits as to whether they are truly a visual eyesore.

I can only hope that the outcome of this development will be something the Rye Park Community can celebrate.

Thank you. Christian Wythes