

My name's Dr Robyn Stephenson and I am here today because I'd like for the Rye Park Wind Farm to go ahead – with 109 turbines.

For a bit of background information, I'm the principal Chiropractor at Yass Chiropractic, and I opened this practice in 2008 so I've seen a lot of local people there over the years, as well as hearing a variety of concerns facing farmers, for instance. I also completed a Geology degree before this. My family and I moved up to Rye Park in late 2015 and since then, we've planted more trees, made sensible changes to our property, have some animals as lawnmowers and will be making the move to solar soon. We try to be eco-friendly, and basically, we sit on the left side of fence, BUT, we do this with research behind us and much thought and discussion.

I've always liked the concept of green energy, from when I was a young girl. I do understand that nothing is ever 100% green energy, because raw minerals are still required for such things as the actual wind turbines in wind farms, the components required for solar panels and the construction of dam walls for hydroelectricity. Now, given the energy crisis that the media is talking about, especially on the east coast, I think the sooner we invest in more green energy, and especially on the east coast, the better.

Now, even being fairly green, a field of solar panels or a wall of wind turbines aren't exactly my cup of tea from a visual perspective, BUT there is so much more at stake here than visual concern. The central issue is that we can't keep relying on fossil fuels for our energy needs. The climate is changing and we need to change with it. With a Geology degree under my belt as well, I have a very good understanding that non-renewables are exactly that: a finite source of energy. And drilling for oil and gas, fracking for gas, mining for coal and mining for uranium leave a plethora of environmental problems behind them.

I'm sure no-one likes the idea of an open-cut coalmine in their backyard, but I don't agree with the concept that it should be dumped in someone else's backyard, either. We need to take responsibility for our energy sources. The Australian governments of today are behind the 8-ball when it comes to a functional energy grid. And although we can't fix it up overnight, this community has the chance to be a part in helping to fix this problem by having the Rye Park Wind Farm operational. And that includes the 25 wind turbines that are currently under review for their Visual Impact. And although I'm sure most people would rather look at the pristine bush instead of wind turbines a few kilometres away, we need to consider the *very practical position* that our modern world requires the generation of electricity to remain operational. And the Rye Park region can get pretty windy, especially of late, so it's ideal for wind farms.

Now everyone's been rearranging the landscape: we've got cleared farming land and bald hillsides, we've got power lines and transmission lines on view. We've got fences galore and plenty of dusty, dirt roads. Adding some wind turbines to the mix isn't going to change that landscape too much, and it's going to make things better, not worse. The benefits that this Wind Farm is going to have on the community is great - there's the creation of local jobs, vastly improved roads, upgraded bridges, and the fact that many local farmers out there are going to be able to subsidise their farming practices by generating income from having wind turbines on their property. They could run their farms at a profit, instead of a loss. They could stay on the land, not have to sell or subdivide. Maybe their kids will stay too, and not move to big cities. Maybe the farmers won't have to live under such pressure, such stress.

The local roads that we all travel on here to work each day will be improved. The low-lying bridges over creeks will be improved on roads like Rye Park-Dalton Road, Boorowa-Rye Park Road and Grassy Creek Roads; roads that we all use. That means better accessibility on the roads during heavy

rains. And with better roads, more people might be willing to travel to go to work, so more people might want to move out here. Property prices wouldn't crash because of a few wind turbines. Not if decent roads are available.

And if Tilt Renewables is to keep the Rye Park Wind Farm operational, they need to keep in those 25 turbines that are currently deemed as having a Visual Impact, because Tilt Renewables, like most companies, is not a charity. Large-scale projects with a razor-thin profit margin just end up just costing companies. There are always cost blow-outs along the way, and these need to be able to be absorbed by the profit margin. Cutting these 25 wind turbines would most likely make this project unviable.

Some people won't like seeing the wind turbines, but probably more local people won't mind seeing them at all. And in 5 or 10 years' time, these turbines will just be accepted as part of the regular landscape – and they'll be helping our roads, our jobs, our farmers, our community and our energy grid.

So for the greater good of the community, I think it would be a very good decision to NOT further reduce the number of turbines in this project and to give the green light to it with 109 turbines.

Thankyou.