

Comments on the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm (ref D455/17 Rye Park Wind Farm).

Submission of Graeme Smith & Sue Cassidy.

My partner and I have lived in Rye Park for about 10 years. Our new house is in the middle of Rye Park. We have extensive views South, East and North, of the hills around Rye Park.

We like the design and appearance of wind turbines, their clean and elegant lines are so simple that they do not clash with anything in the natural surrounds but, rather, they augment the beauty of their surrounds. At a distance of 3.2 kilometres we will probably not be able to see the turbines from our residence; this is a disappointment to us.

Any impact on the roads in the area would be offset by the improvements to those roads by the construction organisations. Such an improvement to the roads should have a positive effect on the value of property due to increased ease of access to the region from places such as Yass, Gunning and Boorowa.

If the number of turbines in the area of Rye Park is reduced that will mean a considerable drop in income locally, not only to the local farmers, but also to the residents of Rye Park in the form of the Community Enhancement Fund. The success of the region's farmers is of vital importance to the success of the rest of the community, the income from the wind turbines will have a very noticeable effect on the wellbeing of the community in general. The reduction of the number of turbines by the proposed 16 will reduce the Community Enhancement Fund by \$40,000 per year, and the income of local landowners by \$256,000, per annum.

Every turbine that is taken off the proposal reduces the generating capacity of the proposal, take off 25 turbines and the capacity is reduced by approximately 25%. Unfortunately, the amount of infrastructure, e.g. substations, does not reduce, thus the cost of development of the proposal, per megawatt of power, increases substantially towards a non-viable status. Result. End of proposal, the company goes to Victoria (Hazelwood going off-line) and/or South Australia. Thus the electrical viability of NSW is reduced. Please do not complain when the next power black-out occurs

These are good arguments for the re-instatement of the original wind farm proposal.

There is no scientific evidence of detrimental low frequency sound effects produced by wind turbines, if such effects were the case then all communities within earshot of highways would have a large percentage of their populations suffering those effects – trucks are major generators of low frequency sounds.

The demand for the supply of electrical power in Australia is not going to reduce, there may be some argument about the level of increase of that demand but nobody has actually established that the demand will decrease. At the same time the present generating infrastructure is getting older, typically the Hazelwood power station is closing this week, that is, 20 % of Victoria's generating capacity will not exist after next week-end. The upshot of this is that there will be a lot less power available during the next 'high power need' event, so there will probably be load shedding during the peak power use times, typically during the afternoon, we can all look forward to the eventuality of power blackouts because there isn't enough power to supply all that is needed.

If this wind farm proposal is reduced any further it will no longer be financially viable. The proposed generating capacity will become non-existent.

If it is suggested that it be moved to some other place then it is very likely that any other proposition will get the same reaction with a similar result, partly based on the rejection of this proposal.

There is a lot more at stake here than stopping the erection of a few wind turbines. I would ask that all people involved be mindful of their responsibilities.

Just don't forget, when load shedding cuts your power, you are responsible. Yes, just as much as your politicians and public servants, if not more, because you can put pressure on the politicians and thus the public servants.

Graeme Smith & Sue Cassidy,

