

Speaker No 1

Mr Chairman, Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

We, June my wife and I are totally opposed to the proposed Wind Tower Development (PWTD). We have lived very close to the Proposed Wind Tower Development all our lives and I have worked on 90% of the properties and farms in area as an Earthmoving Contractor.

This will be by far the worst thing that has happened in my 81+ years. I have lived through Fires, floods, droughts etc but this will be by far the worst. The wind turbines only generate when suitable wind blows, which is about 30% of the time and it is probably when the Electricity is not needed.

We cannot believe that this development had not been totally knocked on the head before this because of the clearing for the Towers, access roads etc. The damage to the environment will get worse not better.

Who will take responsibility for the long-term impacts?

I would not like this in my portfolio.

I am an experienced Farmer in the region, and have ran a success Earth Moving business across this region for over 53 years. This experience means I know what impact these Towers and their construction will have in our region. I understand from my extensive experience what you can or cannot do with this environment and the impact on the soil and vegetation.

We oppose the construction of the Wind Towers for the following reasons: -

- The damage to the Landscape, and Environment **will be massive**
- The Visual effects of the clearing and earthworks in this pristine environment - both in the short and long term will be irrecoverable
- The footings of the Towers are massive requiring many trucks of concrete that will never be able to be removed
- The roads that need to be installed to construct the towers, with Trucks, cranes, and other heavy machinery in and out through vulnerable land will destroy previously untouched environments.
- The power lines, in addition to the roads, will affect further hectares of vulnerable land
- The land on which the Development is proposed is very erodible when disturbed

- When it rains on the hundreds of hectares of bare earth because of the clearing for the Towers, access roads etc, there will be 100% runoff causing massive erosion, silting Dams, Creeks and may even reach Wyangla Dam
- **This damage will only get worse and worse, never better. The area will be ruined forever. Who will take responsibility for it?**

Wind Tower construction subsidised. Who will remove them?

If the wind towers were not highly subsidised by the taxpayer and all the electricity users, these overseas companies would never consider building them. They will make money without needing to generate much electricity. There are other alternatives that are environmentally friendly.

Who will be accountable for removing the Towers when they reach the end of their life?

Rehabilitation. This will require massive work to deconstruct, remove and correct disposal. The area will never ever be able to be returned to original condition.

Who will fund this? Will the Company still be in existence?

Where does the power come from in peak periods

Peak periods are when the most electricity is needed – when it is very hot or cold. If it is too hot, too windy the towers do not produce electricity. During very hot weather the Generator on the top of the tower have been known to catch fire. Image that throwing sparks for kilometres. A spokesman for Trustpower stated at an information meeting at Rye Park that nothing can be done, it has to be let to burn out. This is a real fire risk, putting at risk lives, animals, houses etc

During Winter long dark frosty nights, calm days no wind, No Electricity Generated by Wind Turbines. This is why our Electricity bills are skyrocketing, because the reliable suppliers are being used. .

Further Fire Risks

I have been a member of the Rural Fire Service all my life and still go and fight bush fires. I spent my 81st birthday on a Bulldozer putting in Firebreaks around a fire. This was very close to the proposed Rye Park Wind Towers. We get Aerial support to save houses, stock, etc. Having towers in the area will prevent this support by preventing planes flying at effective heights.

We have also been informed that the RFS Volunteers will not be allowed to fight close to the Wind Towers because of the 400 Gallons of very inflammable material that is in each "Turbine" on the top of each Tower.

Hasmatt will be informed but they have informed us they will only attend highway and town fires. This is a further disaster waiting to happen. Who will be held responsible?

Why do I have these concerns: -

- As a Experienced Farmer – this land will never recover from being exposed to this type of activity
- As an Experienced Earthmover that has supported farmers and the environment in the region – this land will erode and cause additional environmental damage
- As a supporter for the environment – this land has virgin land that is essential to ensure sustainability of our future and the impact on animals, plants and bird life and fighting fires are a real concern.
- As an experienced Bush Fire Brigade member – these Towers will inhibit the ability to use the fantastic fire fighting tools of fixed wing planes and helicopters (they save lives and property).

Other Concerns

Others will mention the other concerns that affect humans and animals from the noise, flicker and the visual impact on farmer properties reducing their value.

Short and Long Term Concerns

- Irreversible Environmental Damage
- Significant Fire Risk because of the Towers
- Sustainability of the Towers without Government Subsidies
- Who will remove and dispose of the towers once their life is up!!!!

If this development goes ahead it will be by far the worst thing that has happened in my 81+ years. I have lived through Fires, floods, droughts etc but this will be by far the worst. Please seriously consider my concerns.

Thank you James Frances Field OAM,