

PAC Meeting Boorowa 30th March 2017:

I would like to thank the Department of Planning for its recommendation to approve the Rye Park wind farm, but I do not agree with the one condition imposed to remove 25 turbines from the project based on a subjective visual desktop analysis.

I intend to show that there is strong support of the Rye Park Wind Farm project, and I appeal to the Planning Assessment commissioners that the views of a very small minority should not hold up a development which will improve the local economy AND help Australia meet its renewable energy targets.

1. Introduce myself:

- Paul & I have been farming for about 25 years in the district and purchased the property 'Woodlands' near Rye Park, 5 years ago.
- We are hosting turbines and have been actively involved in the project for the past 5 years.
- I have made previous submissions to the 2014 and 2016 development applications, to which I refer you to.

What the wind farm project means for us –

- Having a regular stream of income, not related to rainfall or livestock markets would drought proof our property and would allow us to continue to operate as primary producers in the current unpredictable climatic environment.
- We will be able to build a house on the property, reducing our overheads costs of renting a house & travel to & from the property every day.
- A source of income independent of rainfall will make our farm more resilient in the current climatic conditions of extended periods of dry weather, by investing in fencing and water systems to better manage ground cover.

2. What the development of RPWF in its entirety of 109 turbines will mean for our Local Community (Rye Park, Boorowa, Yass)

- Direct payments to landholders will mean landholders can put money back into their properties, investing in fencing and water systems, to better manage their properties.
- Indirectly money will flow from landholder hosts back to community for eg. We will be able to pay a mechanic to service our car, pay trades people to build our house.
- This development will bring jobs and families to the region, keeping schools open and money in the community.
- Direct payments into a community enhancement fund from the developer of \$200,000 per year will help the community build infrastructure in its towns limited only by the inhabitant's imagination eg. Town water, improved mobile phone service and internet coverage & have shops and services, fuel depots and cafes in the village. These amenities will improve the visual appeal and rural character of the village, by maintaining its very existence.

- The removal of 25 turbines from this project will reduce this contribution to the fund by approximately \$65,000 per year, limiting the possibilities for investment in the community and compromising the economic viability of the project for the developer.
3. What development will mean for State & National Community :
- Federal government have set renewable energy targets, and NSW has stated renewable energy objectives.
 - This RPWF project can help NSW capture a lot of the money invested to meet the National Renewable energy targets. If these projects are not approved quickly, NSW stands to lose these projects to Victoria and other states.
4. Environmental Impact
- Surveys show that public consumers want more renewable energy, wind & solar in their electricity mix. There is great pressure from the people for our government to hear this- we do not want more coal mines.
 - This development is in a very windy area- a constant renewable source of energy.
 - Before the second submission for development, the developer redesigned parts of the project in response to public environmental concerns.
 - The RPWF project complies with all Noise, Biodiversity, Traffic and socio-economic guidelines.
 - The Visual review referred to in the major project assessment report is a subjective, desktop assessment devoid of any methodology. I raise concerns about the community consultation it refers to, as there are many people who, like me, like the look of turbines, and were not consulted in the O'Hanlon review.
5. Definitive statement addressing Visual amenity:
- My husband & I want the RPWF project to go ahead in its entirety of 109 turbines.
 - The developer, in response to submissions in 2016 voluntarily removed 17 turbines from the project in response to community concerns.
 - The further 25 turbines that the Dept Planning is suggesting to remove from Rye Park & Blakney's Creek area is a result of a subjective visual review, retrospectively imposed on the development application after its submission.
 - Visual appeal is subjective, and we like the look of turbines, find them much more visually appealing than coal mines, will ask for our opinion to count.

We want to show commissioners that there is support in this community for the Rye Park Wind farm project. This development will improve the local economy, bring jobs and families back to regional communities AND help Australia meet its clean energy targets.

Please support it, in its entirety, without additional conditions or removal of turbines.

Linda Cavanagh
30th March 2017
