

Submission to P.A.C. meeting, Rye Park Wind Farm.

Good morning commissioners, and welcome. Thank you for allowing me a chance to speak. My name is Matthew Smith. My wife, Tracy and I, with our two teenage kids live on the [REDACTED] just south of the village of Rye Park where we have been for almost 20 years. I am an uninvolved landholder neighboring the Rye Park Wind Farm, and will not receive an income directly from the project, nor will any of my family. From my bedroom window, I will see between 20 and 30 wind towers, depending on which way I look. I am ok with this though, because I know that when I come downstairs and turn on the electric kettle, the water is going to boil. And as we have seen this summer, this matters to a lot of people.

I would like to ask that the commission reconsider the decision to remove a further 25 turbines from the already reduced layout, and allow the full 109 to be included. Here are my reasons:

I know that some people do not like the look of the towers. Well, I consider them to be majestic, and to my eyes, they enhance the appearance of what is already a modified landscape. Their beauty is not just in the engineering marvel, but in the fact that they harness a resource that would otherwise be wasted, and provide low cost energy to the national grid. This is particularly important at the moment as the state and nation are facing power shortages if new generating potential is not brought on line as soon as is possible. This facility could be up and generating in a comparatively short time, once approved. In fact, I would like to see the project expanded, with as many towers as possible included. This would allow the maximum number of landholders to benefit from the income paid by the proponent, and allow a better use of all the supporting infrastructure. Removing the 25 turbines would reduce the income of the landholders, income that would at least partly be spent in the local region, or reinvested in the farm, or used to pay down debt. Income that continues when a farmer retires, and can be inherited by their kids. Some would miss out altogether. My great fear is that the reduced layout will be

less efficient, and may be delayed until the wholesale price of electricity rises more. This would be an enormous loss to our local economy.

Rye Park is a small community, and the Community fund would be a huge benefit locally. When you add in the short and long term employment, the local benefits are many. And in a small but still significant way, the facility reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and the production of related greenhouse gases considered by the overwhelming majority of the scientific community to be responsible for increasing climate extremes. I have heard some say that its just a drop in the bucket, but you know what? If you don't put any drops in there, then all you have is an empty bucket.

So locals benefit, the state benefits, the nation benefits, and the planet benefits. And all that is required for this to happen is for the people who find wind towers unattractive to look at them from a different point of view.

Thank you for your considerations.