

Aaron Brown

From: PAC Enquiries Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 31 March 2017 10:52 AM
To: Matthew Todd-Jones
Cc: David Koppers
Subject: FW: Rye Park Wind Turbine Development

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 March 2017 5:52 PM
To: PAC Enquiries Mailbox <pac@pac.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rye Park Wind Turbine Development

Dear Commission Secretariat

The following is a copy of my submission I made today at the meeting at Boorowa:

In regard to the proposed Rye Park Wind Turbine Development, I have many issues and questions but the following four are at the top of my list.

Firstly: The Environment

Here today we are facing the possible approval of wind turbines at Rye Park. If this development goes ahead in its original plan, 316 acres of pristine old forest and grasslands will be destroyed to make way for the wind towers access roads. The area is the habitat of many species of birds (around 64 species), wildlife and windflowers, some of which are on the endangered list. This in particular would mean the loss of hollow trees and vegetation used by nesting birds forcing them to relocate. As any knowledgeable person knows birds and wildlife are territorial. The development company, Tilt have given assurances that no wind turbine would be constructed within 50 m. of a hollow tree but birds would be too timid to nest in such close proximity and could well be killed by the rotating blades. Also I am sure the construction company would not take the time and effort to look out for hollow trees. Will Tilt police the clearing of the site anyway? As well there is the real risk of erosion given the nature of the fragile soils on the ridges. Tilt has given assurances that the area will be restored once construction has been completed but I am wondering what this restoration involves. Planting and nurturing native tube stock?

Secondly: Local Road Safety

Roads to and from Rye Park and the network of access roads and lanes within the district are mostly gravel, narrow and windy. Even with the normal flow of local and through traffic, school buses, stock, wool and hay carriers, mail contractors, farm machinery and movement of stock by local farmers, one has to be most vigilant and drive according to the conditions, i.e. Wet and slippery or extremely dusty. With all the extra heavy vehicles using some of these roads, I am most concerned about the increased risk of collisions not the mention the higher road kill.

Thirdly: Alienation Within The Local Community.

This proposed development has caused strained relationships between families and friends i.e. Between hosts and their neighbours and other residents. This division is sad because communities such as ours are so important in rural areas where people help and support each other through good times and bad.

Fourthly: Green Renewable Energy

I am all in favour of green renewable energy but I do wonder why there is this continued push to use wind power. Not only are the towers and turbines costly to construct, maintain and decommission, they also attract a hefty subsidy. When this is taken into account as well as the considerable damage to the environment, bird kill, the effect on the community and a fairly short lifespan and compare it with their relatively low and sometimes unreliable production of electricity, I cannot see any justification in using wind power. However if it is such a good source wouldn't it make sense to construct wind turbines along the Blue Mountains, the eastern escarpment and Canberra's Brindabellas where they would be close to centres needing the most electricity. Also it would save on the costly infrastructure required to bring power from inland areas such as ours. I am also at a loss why alternate sources of green energy aren't being considered such as solar and wave power both of which are environmentally

friendly and relatively unobtrusive. With our extensive and open coastline, a good proportion of which is densely populated, surely it would make sense to harness the sea right at the doorstep. Similarly with solar energy couldn't the subsidy allocated for wind turbines be spent on installing solar panels on every available roof with the surplus being fed into the grid or batteries. Such projects would create many jobs as well.

Lastly I find it contradictory to read on Internet that the Federal Government has initiated with the support of Greening Australia a scheme to plant 20 million trees by the year 2020 here we have the State Government considering to approve this and possibly other developments which will entail the clearing of hundred of acres of pristine and beautiful bushland.

Finally, all I want to say is that I hope common sense wins today

Thank you
Rosemary Miller
Resident of Rye Park.

ISent from my iPad