

19 November 2018

**RE: Yass Valley Wind Farm MOD 1 Public Meeting.**

**Written submission.**

**I give permission for this submission (including my first and last name) but NOT my contact details to be on public record.**

I am writing as a Yass Valley resident, parent and small business owner. I have no direct connection with any proposed, current or existing wind farm developments in my area. I write in full support of wind farm approval and development expansion in my region.

My support is from an environmental perspective, an economic one and overall a sustainable holistic one. I can see the effect the drought has on my town and region in terms of spending trends, families in need (through my involvement in local community groups) and job security. My children are aged 6 and 10 and I cannot fathom explaining to them in 10-20 years time why our region has no windmills and that locals in our town were afraid to speak in favour of such proven renewable energy technology.

I am not fearful of any 'blight on our landscape' as some local opponents of the project have put it. This discussion is not one of aesthetics and if it were, the drought, clearing of land for ship and power lines all have negative aesthetic impacts on our vistas.

I am fearful of my region being out of step with state, national and certainly global trends when it comes to renewable energy. I am embarrassed by the thought that my region would not take now what will be inevitable steps towards alternative energy as climate change takes an even stronger hold on our economy and lifestyles.

I am aware that there will be increased trucks on roads for periods and there may be changes to traffic management. None of this should be a block to the developments – there should be sound planning and most definitely funding at local, state and corporate level to ensure such infrastructure is appropriate and sustainable for the life of the project. We can view these changes and the creation of community funds as positives for our community. I would look forward to Yass Valley taking best-practice examples around consultation, genuine community engagement and creating positive processes to determine infrastructure changes as well as how and where community funds generated from these developments are invested.

As a society we are well past the point of 'should we' on renewable energy and well past the debate of 'does wind power work'. It is not for me to debate such matters but it is for me to make a clear statement that if we do not take long-term planning action now, the next generation in our Yass Valley will most certainly pay the price. Literally in terms of their power costs, outages and shortages as well in terms of playing catch up with technology. There will also be a social price to pay in terms of being left far behind their regional counterparts who are already a decade (and more in some cases) down the road of renewable energy with similar terrain, rural space and distance from the grid and from cities.

There are clear state-wide goals around climate change and renewables; any decision that does not see Yass Valley say yes to wind farms will be at complete odds with these. I would find it very difficult to explain this to our community, those outside it and certainly anyone looking to invest in our region.

Sincerely

Sophie Peer

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