

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Crookwell 111 submission
Date: Monday, 27 May 2019 4:56:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brown.

I wish to submit the following opposition to the Crookwell 111 project and also to speak for 15 minutes at the hearing on 7/6 in Crookwell.

I draw the attention of Commissioners to the findings of the Department of Planning on Crookwell 111 and their opposition to it.. They have listed most of the issues—which should have prevented the desecration for the lovely Wollondilly Valley by Crookwell 11. They have also listed the cumulative effects of many wind turbines in a small area. Dense windfarm development is concerning Windfarm Commissioner, Andrew Dyer and, belatedly, Yass and Upper Lachlan Councils.

I hope that we will not see a repetition of the disgraceful Gullen Range ruling reversal by the second PAC hearing.

General.

Any officer involved with this Inquiry should first read “The Windfarm Scam” by UK scientist John Etherington . Etherington illustrates the insanity of the European windfarm period –particularly Denmark. He does not cover the sadly common Australian habit of copying a technology that is proven to be very inefficient and is in steep decline. Australia is moving into a time of electricity shortage as well as budget deficits as infrastructure has not been maintained. To spend scarce money on the hopelessly inefficient Wind farm “side show “ will be seen in future as insanity . This realisation is dawning with few applications for wind now being swamped by solar applications.

I have actually lived within 3 kms of the first wind farm in NSW for 21 years. Others may conjecture—I have experienced. Most of my comments are based on factual experience.

The inability of inland wind farms to achieve what is claimed.

We opposed Crookwell 1 in 1997 – We were told that it was a trial and that there would be no more wind farms in our area. I had both Peta Seaton and Katrina Hodgkinson separately seek the economics of Wind farm 1 under FOI--all to no avail. Clearly it has been an embarrassment to the

Government which subsequently sold it for much less than its erection cost. However, I was lucky to chance upon an employee in the accountancy division of then owner-Eraring Energy. In confidence, she told me that Crookwell 1 was losing very big money. This accorded with our daily observation of stationery turbines and my lifetime experience with water windmills here. We have also been told that the Wind farm operates **at 12% efficiency**.

A dispassionate analysis of the 21 year performance of Crookwell 1 Wind Farm would illustrate the economic insanity of erecting turbines in this area.

Professor Michael Dureau, former CEO of the Warren Centre at Sydney University told me years ago that “No Australian wind farm with any landmass between it and the South Pole will ever be profitable”.

Premier Bob Carr said –“We could cover all NSW with wind farms, kill all the Kookaburras and still not generate 10% of our power needs”.

This is the reason that Crookwell 1 and Crookwell 11 have already had five owners in an ongoing game of “drop the handkerchief until Government bails us out”

Over 21 years we have seen a chain of five companies sell their investment in these two local wind farm sites in a bewildering display of shelf company “Drop the handkerchief”. The first applicant for Crookwell 11- Gamesa was investigated and found to have capital of \$1100! There was a raft of shelf companies underneath with no value.

The Spanish multi national company- Union Fenosa -now operating Crookwell 11 as Crookwell Developments ,vastly increased the initially allowed height of their proposed turbines on a lower elevation than Crookwell 1.They held the licence for 12 years with no activity until last year.. A few demountables were erected years ago (within a week of its application lapsing) to keep the application valid. This has prevented land sales and was “ dog in the manger” behaviour as they waited for Government money.

I wrote to the Minister for Planning and the Department seeking answers to a series of questions. I received no answers—just advice that Crookwell 11 was to proceed.

If it wasn't for risk to our health, the damage to the scenery and depreciation in land values, this is all material for a farce. The Department was “overseeing” a sham.

The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment

opportunities and farm income.

The owner who agreed to Crookwell 1 being erected on her property has since died but in her last weeks she said that, given her life again, she would never have agreed to the turbines being erected. Her farm was leased to a man who lives in Crookwell. Her daughters have signed petitions against any more windfarms. An owner loses control of his/her farm to the operators with locked gates, unexpected traffic etc. One of the main reasons for farm ownership is a life of independence. This is lost with the erection of wind turbines.

- Property values fall—the removal of subdivision approvals within 2kms of a turbine takes away the capital appreciation factor—the main economic reason for owning a rural holding—for both the owner and his uncompensated neighbours.
- Any employment created is very short lived (during erection). The Crookwell 1 Wind turbine power station has NO permanent employee stationed in Crookwell. Crookwell 11 has two.
- Returns from turbines to hosts vary greatly but the income is cancelled out by loss of capital appreciation on a farm—as well as social rift as angry neighbours cut off.

Crookwell 1 host farm was eventually sold for \$2,900/acre-- at a discount of 40-50% due to the presence of 8 turbines with their noise and the huge cost of dismantling after their 20-25 year life cycle. This is estimated at \$350,000 per turbine -\$2.8 million on a farm that sold for \$4.3 million. Similar basalt soil of equal size and the same distance from Crookwell—with no turbines, sold for \$6 million within a year and similar land with no turbines recently sold for \$7,500/acre. The cost of demolition is the reason that so many decaying towers litter the US west. The inability of Government to place bonds on wind farm developers (as with mining) is a disgrace.

The Crookwell 11 development is an example. It surrounds the 160 year ownership Dooley family farm and render their land practically valueless for subdivision or sale.

Scenic vandalism for no purpose.

Despite several requests I have never sighted the 2006 'independent assessment' by Canadian, Dennis Williamson (from Victoria) of the visual impact of 55 turbines being inserted into the valley to the South of Lake Edward. I love this valley; I have planted over 40,000 trees over 65 years. If there was a proven case that the public good was an overriding factor I would have to accept the desecration—However, despite 18 years of requests for the results of the Crookwell Wind farm 1 “trial” they have never been released. I don't believe that either Upper Lachlan Shire Council or the Department of Planning has attended to its obvious responsibility to

evaluate” the trial” and release its findings

Since the Williamson landscape assessment, Assessor Terry O’Hanlon did one and advised against Crookwell 111 on the grounds of desecration of a high value landscape. Crookwell 11 is now the sea of steel—Steel weeds have taken over our landscape and Crookwell residents now see what I have fought against for 22 years and are appalled.

Lake Pejar

The proposed Crookwell 111 encompasses this water which is part of the Sydney water catchment..

This is a recreation area for Goulburn residents. No power boats are allowed. Fishing is done from canoes and the 1983 tree planting surrounding it gives a wonderful bird sanctuary-- particularly for swans. To disturb its peace with turbines whose blades would create an effective Bird Abattoir is quite outrageous. The Heritage value of St.Stephens and Dame Mary Gilmore’s Pejar Creek memorial are ignored.

Night lighting.

The 22 red lights on Crookwell 11 are ruining our formally pristine night sky and attracting a lot of criticism . There seems to be wild inconsistency in the rulings by NSW Planning/ CASA on turbine lighting with the Gullen Range windfarm having no lights despite being on a higher altitude than Crookwell 11.

Bushfire Risk

The proposed development is in a very bushfire prone area. A turbine malfunction on a summer day with heavy westerly wind could see the Southern Highlands wiped out. 1965 and 1983 saw such events—now, as population density has multiplied, the damages claims would run into \$ billions.—With Crookwell 1 and 11, Taralga, Walwa, Cullerin and Gullen already up and Biala , Coppabella , Yass, Boorowa all approved we have the **potential for a mega fire.** Aerial fire control has been removed as smoke removes visibility and no sane pilot would operate over a windfarm. This compounds the fire risk.

Blade Failure and Tower Collapse

There have been disasters in the Northern Hemisphere from the above causes. Gullen Range has already had one blade come adrift.

We find the siting of Crookwell 11 turbines within 250 metres of the busy Crookwell/ Goulburn road quite astounding. When our CCC complained and asked for Main Roads inspection they replied that they would act if there were enough accidents!!

Removal of TV reception and fall in radio reception..

In 1998-9 when our TV disappearance was investigated, it was proven that we are in an electromagnetic bubble that emanates from the turbines 2 kms away. We had to erect a satellite dish to get reception and are still unable to get Wollongong TV—instead we get Alice Springs with its limited relevance to our interests. Our radio set has to be turned every few minutes to give reception.

Adverse health effects for people (and animals) living in close proximity to wind farms;

Sound, infrasound, flicker etc. It may be 5% ,it may be 10% who are affected but this is real for some unfortunate neighbours. Infrasound damage has been proven in USA, Germany etc. but has not been investigated in Australia -the committee formed to do so expects to go into the field in the “next few years”!

We live to the NE of the turbines and do not consciously hear the fans turning –on the occasions that they do turn. They are operating at 12% efficiency! The Dooley family live on the opposite side of Crookwell1 Wind turbines They are under 2kms to the South of the nearest turbine. They hear the Whoosh, Shoosh washing machine noises and have had very severe headaches after fencing near the turbines. One of them died of cancer and the family used to sit up at night with him as bleeding incidents occurred and an ambulance was immediately required. His widow is severely affected with high blood pressure and nose bleeds .

Since the commencement of operations of Crookwell 1 in 1998 my wife has experienced strange problems with her health. She developed severe pain in many muscles. She had trouble sleeping... In August 2006 she was diagnosed as having Polymyalgia Rheumatica and put on Cortisone treatment—which she has had to maintain ever since. This removed the pain but then she developed vertigo, numb left finger, and numb left side of her mouth, flickering focus and then severe headache. When tired, her face would turn scarlet, left hand would go a purple colour and upper arm would ache. We believe that this is caused by infrasound when the wind is in the SW.

We are in a TV reception removing electromagnetic bubble which emanates from the nearest tower (2 kms. away).

None of the above symptoms have occurred when she is at our unit in Sydney.

Environmental damage

Drying soil and decreasing rainfall has now been established in the dense concentration of wind turbines in Texas.USA.

I oppose Crookwell 111 on all the above grounds,

Sincerely

John Carter