



MELON PASTORAL PTY LIMITED
ABN 66 000 881 309

11 June 2019

Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Professor O'Kane,

I write to you as a concerned owner of a 2,000 acre cattle farm at Roslyn, NSW.

Unfortunately, business commitments in Sydney prevented me from attending the 6 June public meeting.

Our property houses three families, all of whom live within three kilometres of a number of the 17 wind turbines proposed to be erected to the East of Woodhouselee Road Roslyn, as part of the Crookwell 3 development. They will be impacted.

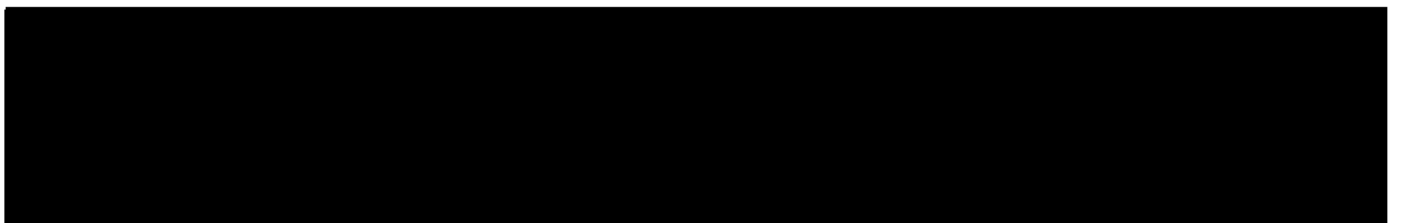
I submit the economic viability of Crookwell 3 is a commercial decision for the operator and should not be a factor in considering the merits of the appeal.

Local residents have been resisting the erection of wind turbines in this area for twenty years, fundamentally to no avail. I have been personally involved for 12 years.

Over this period, any wealth creation enjoyed by the district from wind farm developments has been net negative. The small financial contribution which has actually been delivered, has been more than offset by the capital losses suffered by landholders; realised or not.

Employment during the construction phase has been drawn mainly from outside the area. The number of local jobs created for on-going operations is negligible.

The developments have also been socially divisive, turning non-host neighbours against turbine hosts.



You will have heard of the health fears and objections raised by residents of the proposed wind farm expansion.

Many of these fears are based on empirical research and, not least, the anecdotal evidence of the health effects suffered by those already living in close proximity to existing developments. Often these effects are kept within families for fear of reprisals if the victims go public. However, regular sleep impairment is a common complaint. Interruptions to local radio and television reception are among other commonly heard grievances.

There are 175 turbines operating in, or, planned for the Crookwell area - Crookwell 2 and 3, 51; Gullen Range, 73, and Taralga 51. When does the desecration and reduction in productivity of some of the country's best agricultural and most scenic land reach a point of saturation? How much more industrialisation and hardship should this rural community be expected to tolerate?

Residents have been treated with appalling contempt by government officials throughout the approval processes.

We have been misled and rendered powerless when blatant conflicts-of-interest were ignored. We have watched as the incorrect siting of turbines was tolerated, and warnings from the local fire chief dismissed. We have been told by senior officials from the Department of Planning that we are "collateral damage" in "the greater good" - in other words, "forget due process, these wind farms will proceed".

That this district should yield even more to "the greater good" it is unconscionable. It has surely done more than its share.

Moreover, residents are already living with the prospect that when turbines are decommissioned, there is no certainty they will be dismantled. The operators' financial capacity, and the timing of their obligations, are ambiguous and, as all three wind farms in our area are foreign owned, there is a real prospect of abandonment.

If the latest Department of Planning decision is overturned, it will leave our beautiful rural landscape littered with even more disintegrating hulks as ugly, continuing reminders of a time when failed public policy and lack of process integrity over-ruled the majority's wishes.

We are very grateful for the consideration shown by the Department of Planning on this application currently under review, and I respectfully ask that you and your fellow Commissioners reject the GPG appeal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maurice L Newman', written over a horizontal line.

Maurice L Newman AC
Chairman