

Dear PAC,

My name is Thomas Gunthorpe, I am an involved host of the Bango Windfarm D502-18 in the Mt. Buffalo cluster.

I own two properties within the bounds of the proposed windfarm. 'Danebank' which is situated in the middle and south of the project at 260 Tangmangaroo Road, Kangiara – and is NOT involved with the project – although invited, and 'Mt. Buffalo' at [REDACTED] Wargeila Road, Yass in the Mt. Buffalo cluster to the east.

I offer my opinion and background to the project as follows:

Danebank was purchased by my late Father, John Gunthorpe in 1964 from the late John Winterflood (Father to Andrew and David) and was originally a portion of the Laverstock property. John W. was mostly interested in open cropping country, and my Father who was keen to run Sheep didn't mind the hilly country that dominates the Danebank property centred on Mt. Joey. I grew up on this property from age 1, running fine wool Merinos with my Parents, two brothers and my sister. Back in those days I remember the droughts – Dad said 1 year in 7! Droughts especially the extended droughts cause no end of distress. Everything suffers, the environment, the animals, income falls and costs rise. There is no doubt we are experiencing climate change – Man induced or not, our seasons are now variable and far less reliable. The Wind farm is a means to drought proof the farming enterprise having a secure long term income stream that is 100% independent of the farming system.

In year 2000 I bought out my Father, in 2006 I bought out my Brothers and Sister – all being possible due to having taken a career off-farm, essentially running two full-time jobs for several decades. This also meant a two-way four hour drive each weekend. Farm succession is a huge issue in Australia, with many family multi-generational farms sold and split up. I've had a personal goal to keep the Farm in the family for as many generations in the future as possible and have given up much to achieve this. Being able to secure the enterprise in the short term and for future generations while maintaining an environmentally sustainable production system is priceless.

Danebank was never of a critical size to produce sufficient income for a family without some form of off-farm income. Off-farm income always means travel and time away from immediate business and family. It was for this reason I purchased the Mt. Buffalo property in 2011 to create a critical mass farming enterprise that could sustain itself, support a family and employment for at least one full-time employee to allow flexibility (i.e. allow time to get off the farm or have a break). So far this is working well – although now exposed far more to the environmental variability we are experiencing.

The Mt. Buffalo property was not purchased because of the Wind farm opportunity, and its potential benefits have never been taken into account for budget or financial management. However, with this opportunity I will have the ability to not leave a significant debt to my children – at this time I only have a 10 month old daughter having started a family late in life due the above reasons.

Unbeknownst to many – the Danebank property originally had two turbines planned on Mt. Joey. Fully recognising that these two turbines more than others would have high visual impact to the immediate neighbours within 2km and to a lesser extent those out to 4-6km., and to be honest the impact would also be high for the Danebank homestead at 1.7km. It was for those reasons above that I personally chose to not have those turbines included in the project. The point I wish to make is that there is, and has been consideration for neighbours in the planning of the project.

Back in 2006 when I was first contacted regarding the potential for a Wind Farm – the first person I spoke to was Andy Winterflood. *Andy made it clear that he didn't like them, but you got to do what*

you've got to do. With Andy I would like to thank him for his consistent politeness and most recently his recognition that I made this point to speak with him and learn his views before the process began. Similarly, David Winterflood, Don and Enrica Aroni have always remained polite and friendly fully knowing that I'll host turbines on the Mt. Buffalo property. Peter and Morna Thompson have always stated that while the project exists, they may as well be involved – and also have remained courteous at all times. To say that our communities are divided is not necessarily true – and seem to be driven by those outside with their own agendas.

There is one however that expressed a negative personal attack only for the first time at the PAC. Taking direct aim due to the potential income stream. To put everything into context, we live in a farming community where our livelihoods are based on farming the land, and producing food and fibre for the wider community and economy. We've been doing it for over 50 years and intend on doing it perpetually. Personally I'm against small unproductive life style blocks in this setting. There is a distorted view of what it takes to run a farming enterprise – where every millimetre of rain could be converted to a monetary unit. We live and run these enterprises 24/7, not three weekends a year, for the only the past few years - I rest my case.

The last point I would like to make from my personal perspective is that I am one of five elected members of a Host Landholder negotiating committee. During this time, we have met with representatives from CWP, our Lawyers representing the Host Landholders and the committee members many times over several years to create two primarily documents:- The Code of Conduct and The Lease & Option agreements. These documents are significant in detail and provide a clear understanding of the operating parameters, legal and financial mechanisms under which the Wind farm will be built, managed and operated into the future – along with provision for deconstruction when the day comes. During this process may I say that CWP always listened to our points of view, constructively offered workable solutions and between us I believe we have created a fair, safe and equitable outcome for all parties.

Having the luxury of writing this post PAC – there are a few points that I'd like to address that were raised by individuals without naming names. (Many of the concerns that have been raised by the Public are addressed within The Code of Conduct).

Not in any particular order:

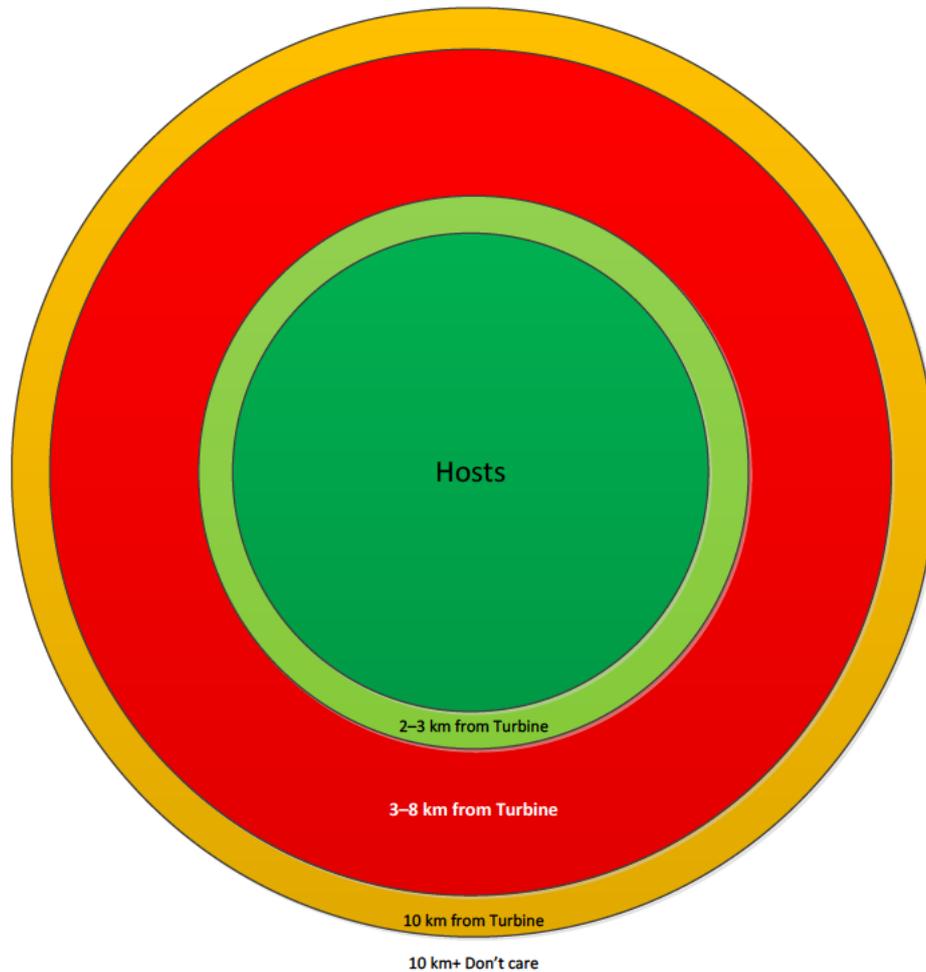
- **Land valuation**

This is a common statement against Windfarms, and it's one of perception. Farming land today is valued by the productivity index of the land. Cropping potential, Livestock carrying capacity, Capital improvements, Average rainfall etc. then access to facilities – such as main roads, shops and schools. Visual aspect has little or no impact on the income producing capability of land and has not historically been proven to create any negative impact. Furthermore, for the loss of land value to be realised, the farm would need to be sold. Most land in this district is tightly held – so it's unlikely that any perceived or real loss will take place.

- **Health and visual impact**

This subject has been discussed infinitum. Putting things into context – Millions of people live within close proximity to high noise and vibration environments with very poor visual outlook; under flight paths, next to railways, freeways and generally busy streets and shopping centres, exposed to every frequency in the spectrum included electromagnet. Why are these people not up in arms? and are not reported to be suffering or dying from such claims that Wind

farms produce. The only real issue is do you like the look of them or not? The following diagram sums it up.



The diagram and table represents a clear view and perspective of relationship to any Wind farm project.

It's impossible that no one be un-affected by a large scale project. The positioning of the Bango WF, and the final layout are testament to provisioning for minimal impact to the number of people affected. Originally the Bango project – so named, began far closer to the township of Yass. With a high number of 'life style' blocks to the southern end of the project. All of those turbines have been removed as was the entire Lang's Creek cluster for similar and environmental concerns.

	Distance from turbine to Homestead	Business impact	Visual impact	Perceived Health issues	Compensation
Host	Variable, but relatively close	VERY HIGH	HIGH	NIL	Per turbine rate
Neighbour agreement	2 - 3 km	VERY LOW to NIL	MEDIUM	LOW	% of per turbine rate
No Neighbour agreement	3 – 8 km	NIL	MEDIUM to LOW	HIGH	NIL
Outer	10 km +	NIL	VERY LOW	NIL	NIL

- **Financial justification**

Wind farms are being developed world wide in varying political and economic environments. It's a long bow to suggest that these machines are not economically viable. No financial institution would invest in any venture without assurance of a return on investment and in a timely fashion. The RET alone is not the reason these institutions are investing in these projects. The RET only reduces the risk to the project with varying political agendas. Political instability has been the greatest impact for the development of Wind farms in Australia.

- **Bush fire mitigation**

One of the greatest issues with any Bush fire is access to the site. The Bango WF is situated in a high risk area, being of inaccessible hilly and rocky terrain. There have been many fires over recent years in the area being started by Lightning. The Bango WF will provide a series of access roads throughout the site that will be well maintained giving access to these areas that are currently very difficult.

In excess to the road network required to access the Turbines, CWP have provided funding to upgrade a registered fire trail that will increase access to the site from a third direction.

With respect to Aircraft – the RFS have no issues with operating in and around Wind farms during a fire event, the recent Taralga fire is testament to this.

Within the Code of Conduct, there is provision that CWP provide, man and maintain suitable fire fighting vehicles during the fire season.

- **Traffic and the cutting down of trees**

There has been suggestions that trees will need to be cut down on the Tangmangaroo and Wargeila roads, and that there will be vehicular movements of 600 per day.

Publicly available documents will suggest otherwise. Heavy and long vehicles will enter via an entry point off the Lachlan Valley way – and traverse a private road to access the Turbine location points within the project. Other lighter traffic will use the Tangmangaroo and Wargeila roads – which are to be suitably maintained. During normal business hours, 600 traffic movements per day equates to 75 per hour, or 1.25 per minute. I'd say that's an exaggeration.

- **Scenic value and ruined for generations**

The human impact on the Earth has been immense and our impact only increasing. At least with Wind Turbines, the primary impact is only of visual perception and only within a narrow band. When the day comes and man has invented more efficient forms of power generation and these turbines will be removed, the only remaining footprint will be a relatively small concrete slab. Alternately, the devastation caused by mining coal and god forbid we use nuclear will impact forever with serious environmental and health issues for all generations to follow. When my daughter reaches my age, I imagine she will watch these machines being dismantled. I'm willing to put up with this type of power generation within my life time to ensure that the future is clean and safe for my Grandchildren and beyond.

- **Turbine Lighting**

This was not discussed during the PAC – but is an issue I would like tabled. The newer turbines are of a greater size and height. Objects exceeding 150m needed to be lit for aircraft at night and reduced visual conditions. Objects of this size and magnitude are noted on aeronautical maps so Pilots can plan their flight. None the less, CASA like many other bodies will do all possible to shift the liability of an accident and have mandated the use of lighting in this case.

The number of aircraft transactions at or near the height of the turbines in the Bango WF is extremely low, however that too does not give way to safety. The visual impact at night with lighting will far out way the visual impact during the day.

The solution at a minimum is that Shrouds be placed on the lit turbines to eliminate light emitting below the height of the turbine and at best Aircraft radar be installed so that the lighting is only activated during an aircraft transaction through the area. This technology is available and may add cost to the project, but would solve a huge community wide issue.

- **Summary**

The income generated by the WF will allow the ability to run more environmentally friendly and sustainable farming enterprises well into the future.

Funding is also made available to the wider community for local projects – for all to benefit.

Local businesses and locals alike will benefit from the large scale project with the requirement of local goods and services.

Interruption and inconveniences are compensated for – so there is no significant negative impact for the development of this project.

There is ***Gold in them hills*** not unlike any other resources boom – this time it just happens to be Wind.

Along with all the other positive benefits that have been outlined by many others that support the Bango WF – I support this project and hope that it receives planning approval in due course.