

Submission to The Independent Planning Commission on the upgrade of the Aarons Pass Road. Presented by Brenden Cole.

I fully support the upgrade of the Aarons Pass Road as proposed by CWP Renewables
I also fully support the Crudine Ridge Windfarm Project.

As a landowner who will get windfarm infrastructure on my property, I am already seeing the benefit of this and am now able to carry out farm improvements, work that is providing employment to the wider community.

The Aarons Pass road was never more than a winding narrow bush road, usually rough surface and could be quite dangerous when there is oncoming traffic. I travelled that road a fair bit during the 1990's and early 2000's when I was a rural contractor, and near misses were regular occurrences, just because of the difficulty in passing oncoming traffic.

Rural Australia is covered by roads that need upgrading, and this is a great opportunity to get one road done with a benefit to the local and wider community. And at no cost to the local council.

Locals in the area will have much improved access from Pyramul to the Castlereigh Highway. This could also benefit people from further away in passing through, to and from Rylstone/Kandos, Lithgow and Mudgee.

Any road that can be upgraded will benefit users and improve safety.

Much has been said about the threat to koalas because of the upgrade. When all is said and done, the proposal allows for the clearing of less than 6 ha of stringy bark trees, and less than 1ha of Box/Gum.

This amount of clearing would have no appreciable effect on the native animals in the area. Koalas are at far greater threat from disease in Australia than they will be from the upgrade of the Aarons Pass road..

As well, offsets will be provided by CWP Renewables to compensate for what clearing is to be done.

Offsets for the the Crudine Ridge Windfarm have already been provided by the purchase of the "Glen Maye" property at Sally's Flat. Further offsets will be provided for the Aarons Pass road.

A lot of the clearing to be done takes the form of trimming and lopping branches. There are a great deal of overhead branches that can be trimmed to achieve the upgrade needed. Not only will this provide the windfarm with access, it will be a great improvement for stock trucks, Emergency services, and the general road users.

The added benefit is that there will be less limbs and trees to blow over the road during windstorms. This was a common occurrence during storms earlier this year.

The road upgrade needs to go ahead because of the length of the blades for the windfarm .

Originally 62 metre blades were proposed, but now 67 metre blades will be used. These are more efficient but need more room to get there.

Careful planning has been done for this proposal. Mapping has been done, and while the upgrade is taking place, a walk through of the days completed work will be done at the end of each day and again before the start of work each day.

This road upgrade must be done to complete the Crudine Ridge Windfarm.

However it is an investment in the future.

Every road user forever will benefit from this project, better access, safer traveling.

The Aarons Pass Road has needed fixing for a long time. Let's not miss the opportunity.

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