

Crudine Ridge Windfarm Modifications June 11, 2019

There are issues of concern brought up in these modifications and some are not related to Aaron's Pass Road upgrade.

Aaron's Pass Road Upgrade

We would all like to see Aaron's Pass Road in better condition, with an all-weather (tarred) surface, but it is unnecessary to clear fell the whole road reserve as CWP have in the past.

In Appendix 6, a minimum width of the road set at 6m with laybys at 1km for traffic blocked by CWP. No maximum width is specified. As a car parking space is 2.5m wide, a 6m wide road used for oversized traffic travelling in one direction seems adequate. Traditionally two-way roads were a chain, nominally 7m wide. A 7m maximum width, when used one-way road for CWP oversized traffic should be set for this road, in order to preserve the endangered ecological communities either side. CWP require only 110 oversized traffic movements for which they want to sacrifice 22km of roadside woodland. Crown road verges and stock routes are often the only areas where original habitat is preserved.

Biodiversity

Bio- offsets and credits might look good on paper, but if these threatened species- animals, birds and flora- are not already inhabiting that offset, what makes you think they will thrive there in future? As to reforestation of pasture where woodlands are not continuous, any appreciable regrowth may take up to 50 years as this area is high, dry and subject to extreme temperatures, unlike coastal areas. Unless regularly attended, any tube-stock, or relocated flora will die. It will all be too late, and too bad for Koalas, Black Cockatoos, Pink Skinks, Purple Peas etc. White Box, Yellow Box, Blakeley's Red Gum Woodland is only 3% of its original range. We cannot afford to sacrifice any more. Do the areas of clearing include that already cleared, and what independent body will monitor CWP clearing forest?

Turning Circles

Each turning circle clearance should be considered on a one-off basis. 60m and 400m turning in Appendix 6 appears excessive. Not only road width, but also the sweep of wide loads across the verges must be minimized, to preserve endangered woodland.

Noise generation from wind towers to non-associated residences.

In table 4, 35dB(A) is considered acceptable inside non-associated residences. This should read 25dB. Acoustic reports on the ambient background noise levels were flawed as even the latest DEP report had a disclaimer that equipment used could not monitor noise below 20dB. As most levels at night on farms are 15dB, but this was not recorded. dB should be used rather than dB(A) which only registers the average range experienced by humans, and not infra and ultra-sound ranges that are the nuisance noise reported from windfarms. What independent body will monitor CWP noise generation and what will be done about it?

Buy Back

It is not clear in if it becomes unbearable to live close to CWP wind-towers, exactly what the buy-back offer is. If the buy-back offer is only for the residence and curtilage, it will not be enough. Farmers need to live on the farm, close to their animals and not commute an hour from their farm, to run it responsibly. If CWP is buying out non-associated residences, CWP will need to buy the whole agribusiness, residence, curtilage, pasture, shedding and total land package.

Water Supply

16. Water supply to the windfarm should not deplete the water table and bores within the surrounding agricultural community. CWP must adjust the scale of their development to comply. By providing an all-weather tarred surface, the necessity for watering unsealed Council roads to combat dust generation would be reduced, especially in the current drought. What independent body will monitor CWP water usage from local bores?

Decommissioning of wind turbines

Clauses 43 &44. It is unclear who is responsible for removing decommissioned wind turbines. Is it CWP, the operator or the landowners, and at who's expense? Is there an insurance policy in place to cover this and site rehabilitation?

There is an old English nursery rhyme from about 1764 that is still relevant;

They hang the man and flog the woman

That steals the goose from off the common,

But let the greater villain loose

That steals the common from the goose.

The law demands that we atone

When we take things we do not own,

But leaves the lords and ladies fine

Who take things that are yours and mine.

Please do not blindly pass these modifications when we will lose much of the amenity of our land and future generation's enjoyment of threatened habitat on common land, without adequate safeguards being imposed. We will gain nothing from this development, and we have to live with your decision.

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