

IPC Meeting

Pyramul Hall

11/6/19

Good morning Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am here today to speak regarding my concerns towards the CWP wind farm proposal. This project so far has clearly had a major impact on our community, our surrounding landscape and our rights to which we are entitled to as landowners.

Clearly the viability of this proposal, in its current state, has to be questioned. This should not be about money, people being out of pocket, or any other forms of financial gains or losses, this is about whether or not, once weighed up and assessed that this project is beneficial for the environment.

I have many concerns regarding this proposal, the threat to a known koala colony (Just to note I have seen koalas on my property), the dust from excessive vehicle movements along our road, which wasn't even supposed to be used for this project, the dangers of moving livestock along the road which is at times our only way of mustering some mobs of stock to and from yards & paddocks and as a farmer I'm sure you can understand the importance & reliability I have towards water and its availability to which I am entitled to. This has already been threatened thanks to CWP taking water from a neighbour's water bore.

One of the contributing factors to my family buying our farm many years ago was the fact that the property had an underground bore with reliable water for domestic & stock usage.

In 2002/03 many of the surface dams on our farm went dry during the drought, leaving the bore to provide a reliable water source for many of our sheep & cattle, which it continued to do until decent rains came. Our property has 3 houses, gardens and stock watering

points that rely on our bore water. In late 2018 when work commenced on the wind farm project, water was being extracted from a neighbour's bore. As neighbouring landowners, we were given no notification of this.

CWP originally sought approval for only 2 megalitres of water from Water NSW for the duration of the project. Upon obtaining approval CWP have realised a further 126 megalitres is required to complete the project out of the two bores available, one of these being next door to our family property. If I were to apply for a license to extract quantities in the same vicinity as CWP, I would be required to meet separate Water NSW criteria and the application would be open for objection before approval. Why does it appear that CWP have not had to meet these same requirements? Why as a neighbouring property were we not given the opportunity to object? I firmly believe the obtaining of a water license by CWP needs to be further investigated. This gross miscalculation can only be seen as completely deceptive.

Shortly after water was being extracted from our neighbours bore, low and behold our bore started to fail. The water table had dropped to a point where it was no longer reliable. This is the first time this had ever happened. Not long after this, the local bore from which CWP were retaining water from also began to fail. The bores put in around the district many years ago were only ever meant to service domestic and stock watering purposes. The bore CWP have been using is one of these.

Fortunately for us the project was ordered to stop shortly after this and the water table soon returned to normal, making our bore water once again reliable. Due to the ongoing drought conditions, I can only imagine what disastrous situation we could be in now, had CWP continued to keep trying to extract water from this particular bore.

As farmers and landholders, we do have rights, one of them being the availability of water beneath our properties for the use of domestic & stock watering purposes. A right which will be stripped away if CWP are allowed to continue the industrial & commercial use of the local water supplies.

If I applied for water extraction from my bore for the use of commercial purposes, well I think we all know what the answer would be.

I am not against renewable energy & trying to find a cleaner, greener alternative. However, at the expense of potentially ruining other critical industries, livelihoods and not to mention the environment, there has to be a question mark put at the top of this proposal. Without water, there is no farm, without farms there is no food or fibre.

Thank you

Tim Rowland-Jones