

**From:** [Catherine Woof](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Thunderbolt Windfarm submission from C. Woof  
**Date:** Saturday, 13 April 2024 2:42:24 AM

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From: Catherine Woof  
Balmoral

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Commissioners:

I object to the Thunderbolt Windfarm proposal. The additional material in this email addresses the impediments to aerial firefighting caused by wind turbines. My partner, Mr Stephen Johnston will supply location details of previous fires since 2005.

1. On and around Balmoral there is considerable air instability, even in still conditions.

On 11 November 2005 a mini tornado passed over and around our house from a WNW direction then onto the Looanga shearing shed. Trees were felled or their tops snapped off. A phone call to the Moree weather station meteorologist confirmed we were in a tornado prone area.

A similar event occurred in 2021.

Both were accompanied by rain.

On 30th December 2019 during the severe fire season another larger tornado from the north passed between the house and shearing shed, tearing off part of its roof. It turned about 90 deg, lifted a dog kennel and dropped it into a gully behind the house. It crossed the New England Hwy, going to Enmore to do more damage.

It was early afternoon in still, dry conditions and came out of the blue.

This has happened before during various times of day under still conditions, though not so severe, from north south or south north.

In late September 2020 at about 8.30 am an fully loaded aerial superspreading plane was working on an adjacent property to the north. The conditions were still as needed to do this

I watched as he came down low and banked steeply to avoid powerlines and regained control of the plane.

On talking to him afterwards he said that unexpected local turbulence nearly caused him to crash into the hillside and he had avoided this. Afterwards he carried half loads while working near our boundary. He is an experienced local pilot who has worked before on the property.

2. Rotating turbine blades cause wake turbulence . So do turbines in lockdown, the amount depending on the incident wind speed and direction. Winds in our country change direction very often. Turbines 23,24,25 and 28 will increase the levels of local turbulence experienced on our farm. There have been many fires on the northern ridge that have been controlled by air using water from the Banalasta dam.

There has been inadequate consultation by Aviation Products for the EIS. See Section 3.16, in which is stated that 'a windfarm in all likelihood, prevent aerial agricultural operations in that particular area...'

The impact of this statement is reduced by the next paragraph, that refers to 'any further consultations with local aerial application operators'.

These statements that are quite different need to be substantiated.

They are, however, supportive of my concerns that aerial firefighting will be impeded by the windfarm, because if agricultural services are impeded or prevented and occur during calm flying conditions, the how much more difficult would it be for helicopters and fixed wing bombers where visibility may be less than clear and there will be wind and gusts of wind.

Sent from my iPhone