

**From:** [stephen.johnston](mailto:stephen.johnston)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](mailto:IPCN.Enquiries.Mailbox)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Thunderbolt Wind farm SSD10807896  
**Date:** Friday, 12 April 2024 5:46:48 PM

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**From:** **stephen.johnston** <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Fri, 12 Apr. 2024, 4:24 pm  
**Subject:** Thunderbolt Wind farm SSD10807896  
**To:** <[submissions@ipcn.gov.au](mailto:submissions@ipcn.gov.au)>

Commissioner

With regard to question 2.

Firefighting operations.

The Aerial Application Association of Australia and the Commercial Pilots Association both state they will NOT fly near wind towers and as they are the firefighting pilots I will take their word over that of the A.F.A.C or the R.F.S. Refer to Cath Woofs submission on aerial fire fighting and wind turbines.

After a 30 minute conversation with Allen Bawden from the R.F.S. Planning & Environment Services Built & Natural Environment Unit I hold less faith in their response to The Thunderbolt Wind farm as the letter sent out is a FORM letter sent to all Wind farm requests for comment.

With NO regard for individuals location fire risk etc.

The 20000 litre tank is for asset protection.

There is assessment of BUSHFIRE RISK or the RISK to VOLUNTEERS.

To allow the Wind farm to go in THEN do a Bushfire Risk Assessment is a blatant Breach of their Duty of Care.

Attached is a photo of me discussing this with Deputy Commissioner Peter M0Mechnie the day he gave my long service medal.

To demonstrate the lack of thought by R.F.S. GODS to actual firefighters I have enclosed a photo of the old Balala 9 being top filled from a farmer's truck in 2019 and the new Balala 9 without a top fill NOT being fill from a farmer's truck in 2023. Tis is to demonstrate the lack of thought by some of Senior Management.

Turbine 26 is so close it blocks fire fighting helicopters access to the Pine ck dam. This would be important fighting a fire in the range to the west away from the Wind farm.

Turbine 26 & 27 are so close to the Green Valley rd as to block the road as an escape route from Sailors Flat.

I have also added a photo of a helicopter bombing a fire over the fence to t23,t24 & t25 in steep country . The water for the two helicopters came from the Pine creek dam.

I have enclosed a map with the Pine creek dam circled and a cross for some of the fires that have happened in the time we face been here. ALL the enquiries into the Black Summer Fires emphasized that we need more aerial support.

To put a wind farm in a HIGH fire danger area east of a HIGH fire danger area is unbelievable.

With so many wind farms going in. With no aerial support there will be a cumulative effect and a strain on volunteer resources.

Question 3.

Accommodation.

On Balmoral we have a gentleman (Ken) who comes out from Uralla to do our feral animal control.

With the building of the New England Solar Farm the influx of workers put rent up in Uralla which made it hard and expensive for locals to stay.

I know of atleast one business that lost a good worker when he could not find accommodation in Uralla or Armidale.

Thankyou for your time.

If the Wind farm goes ahead I look forward to seeing you on the fire ground to take the same risks we will be forced to take.

Stephen Johnston.

Balmoral

1264 Green Valley rd

Sailors Flat.

via Bendemeer N.S.W.









