

From: [Vivienne Carr-Wallace](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Thunderbolt Wind Farm SSD-10807896
Date: Friday, 12 April 2024 2:58:48 PM
Attachments: [Thunderbolt Submission.odt](#)

Please find attached my answers to the email received recently.

Regards

Vivienne Wallace

Thunderbolt Wind Farm
SSD-10807896

In answer to the question raised re: Water resources and Bell's turtle

Kyabra Station real estate advertisement, 2015.....

“The pasture cover is excellent, comprising a balance of native and introduced species. Excellent natural timber shelter exists, the main species being apple box, stringybark, yellow box, white gum, red gum and peppermint.

In the past six years, 60,000 trees have been planted across the property creating wildlife corridors, protecting creeks and wetlands, and rehabilitating vulnerable areas.”

Surely the planting of 60 000 trees, assuming they haven't already been bulldozed, would go a long way to conserving the environment and waterways. The question is why Neoen believes this land is of no value and cannot support our wildlife and farm stock, when it has produced top quality beef and award-winning wool for many years?

We have just come out of a long drought and the land is already dry again. Dams can dry up quickly and if pumping from the Pine Creek dam were to happen there is no guarantee there will be enough water to support farming life over the long term. I believe that any construction, pump installation and associated pipe-laying must cause erosion problems anywhere near waterways, creeks and dams. Turtles like peace and quiet in their journey from the shallows to deeper water holes.

In November 2023 – University of New England published

Target: enhance recruitment and improve population viability

“The Saving our Species (SoS) Bell’s turtle (Myuchelys bellii) conservation project aims to immediately enhance recruitment whilst undertaking long-term research to ensure the viability of each population using strategies that can be effectively implemented over many decades. The delivery of this project has focused on monitoring species abundance and demographic status, locating and protecting wild turtle nests, ex situ incubation of eggs, population augmentation through release of captive-reared hatchlings, research into disease susceptibility, liaising with private landholders to conduct riparian protection and fox control, and community engagement to raise conservation awareness.

The SoS conservation project for Bell's turtle is being delivered through the SoS program. The project is coordinated by NSW Local Land Services (LLS) and delivered in partnership with NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, University of New England (UNE), James Cook University (JCU), turtle experts and ecologists, detection dog trainers/handlers, and over 30 private properties including four under Indigenous management."

Why would the government spend so much money on a study to research and protect this species of turtle, just to allow some French company to come in and trample over the results and conclusions that prove the Bell's turtle is alive and well. Any work in that area will threaten their habitat.

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In answer to the question raised re: Firefighting Operations

It appears all Neoen are concerned about is the project and the site. There are no answers in regard to surrounding areas that would need assistance in a bushfire. It seems that the Rural Fire Service Management Plan is for the benefit of new housing developments and not industrial sites and would have little effect at this project site. There is only a small section on wind farms.

However, it was with interest that I read that 20 000 litres of water as referred to by Neoen as sufficient to fight fires at the site, should have actually read 20 000 litres **per hectare**.

BASIX and NSW Regulatory Requirements

*When submitting plans for the construction of a new home or a home renovation in a bushfire prone zone, you may be required to include a water storage system for firefighting purposes, which should always have sufficient water available in the event of a fire. The size of the storage tank required will depend on the size of the property, with rural residential properties of less than 1 hectare needing 10,000 litres per lot and larger rural lifestyle plots of more than 1 hectares requiring 20,000 litres per lot. This is purely water allocated for fighting fires, and is over and above the minimum BASIX water requirements needed for domestic use. **For example, if the domestic water requirements for the property are 40,000 litres, you would require an additional 10,000 litres (<1 ha) or 20,000 litres (>1 ha) of water available for fighting fires.** While the Rural Fire Services have stated the water reserve for fighting bushfire may be used for other purposes from time to time, homeowner must ensure water is available to fight fires during peak fire periods.*

Wind farms can interfere with local and regional radio transmissions and radio frequency by electromagnetic radiation. Meteorological monitoring towers are a risk to pilots as they are hard to see in smoky areas.

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Accommodation/Employment

Accommodation is at a premium in Uralla and workers and backpackers would take away what might be available as families would not be able to afford the exorbitant rents that would be charged.

The people who are unemployed in the area choose to be, so Neoen work offers probably won't interest too many people.

Potential noise and traffic impacts

“The NSW Government is funding important upgrades on the New England Highway as part of its Saving Lives on Country Roads program.

June 2023 – Continuing work on New England Highway upgrade, south of Uralla

The NSW Government is investing \$8.6 million to provide a safer journey for motorists along a 4.5km section of the New England Highway, about 18km south of Uralla.

Work is continuing on the project which includes installing wider shoulders and a wider centreline, extending and upgrading drainage as required, road rehabilitation and surface improvements.”

Once again, the NSW government has spent millions of dollars upgrading our highway system. Neoen advise that there will be thousands of truck and other vehicle movements on our newly upgraded highway for at least two years. How will that benefit our area?

Although this question may not have been among the most recent asked, I believe that once again Neoen think they can come into our area and ride roughshod over people's lives and the way they support themselves, wasting even more tax payers money.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my thoughts in that the Thunderbolt wind farm should never exist.

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In answer to the questions raised re: Accommodation

There is very little accommodation available in the Uralla region and people in the Armidale/Uralla area prefer not to be employed, choosing to live on the dole.