



CARMEL PERROTT

SUPPORT

Submission No: 164029

Organisation:		Key issues: Energy Transition
Location:	KENTUCKY New South Wales 2354	
Submitter Type:	I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development	
Attachment:		

Submission date: 3/14/2024 7:19:24 PM

I am writing to petition that ALL of the Thunderbolt Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund allocated to the Uralla Shire Council (USC) area go to a community fund rather than to the Council.

I live in Kentucky and am particularly concerned about the proposal to provide a large proportion of the Community Benefit Fund to Uralla Shire Council (USC) rather than directly to the community most effected by the wind farm.

The developer, Neoen, proposed that 1.5% of the capital cost should go into a community benefit sharing fund. This is more than \$5M over 30 years. Tamworth Council (TRC) area has 90% of the proposed turbines but small impacted community and Uralla Council (USC) area has 10% of the turbines but most of the impacted community, particularly in the long term. The councils and Neoen have negotiated a split of 60% to TRC area and 40% to USC area. USC and TRC have negotiated that 66% of the funds go to the council and only 33% goes to a community fund, severely limiting the size and scope of any community projects.

Uralla Shire Council covers an area of around 3,230 sq kilometres and Kentucky and Wollun, the communities most impacted by the wind farm, are on the extreme south east edge of the municipality. Most of the municipality will not be impacted by the wind farm. In the North, for example, the township of Bundarra is around 90km from the proposed wind farm. The township of Uralla itself will be little impacted by the wind farm except perhaps some benefits for local traders with wind farm workers in the area. Transportation of equipment for the wind farm will not even need to pass near the town.

The Thunderbolt Energy Scoping Report says that the Community Benefit Sharing Plan

“will be designed to deliver benefits to key stakeholders in the community in a way that aims to meet their needs and aspirations. Specifically, our objectives are to:

“ deliver significant and meaningful improvements to the community surrounding Thunderbolt Energy Hub;”

and

“empower the community to shape the design and implementation of the different initiatives;”

(Thunderbolt Energy Hub Community Relations Plan p32).

It is unlikely that the program will deliver these benefits if a large proportion of the available funds are held and administered by the council rather than the community. This does not, of course, preclude Uralla Shire Council applying for funds under the plan for appropriate projects.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

I strongly believe that a "Community Benefit Sharing Plan" should "deliver benefits to key stakeholders in the community", rather than provide a windfall to the council.
