

Presentation to ACEN VOTW IPC

10 April 2025

Chair: Richard Pearson, Town Planner

Sarah Dinning BSc, Stakeholder Engagement

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Who we are. We live in house 284, the Girragulang cluster starts on the first ridge west of us 3.5km away. We also have a powerline easement that has been compulsorily acquired on another property. I fly out of Tongy Airstrip, also 3.5km from planned turbines. I am also Chairman of CWOREZist Inc. and Uarbry Tongy Lane Alliance Inc.

Aviation. The local aviation aspect of this project has been a farce. The actual highest risk situations of poor weather and low visibility conditions, common in this area due to the easterly winds lifting coastal moisture over the Great Dividing Range, have been ignored and so not investigated or mitigated. Meanwhile the benign best-case situations of fine weather have been laboured over. The hazard of 131 tall structures on hills surrounding the valley when obscured by smoke or low cloud is an obvious aviation hazard that any layman can understand. When arriving or departing from these airstrips in poor weather or low visibility the turbines will be an obstacle requiring deliberate action to avoid. If an aircraft is forced to descend to remain clear of cloud the turbines will be a hazard. Pilots unfamiliar with the area trying to divert

into Coolah in bad weather will be in particular danger.

Turee airstrip is set up specifically for aerial firefighting - the owners have repeatedly informed ACEN and DPHI of that. Both airstrips are used for aerial ag.

In addition, I practice and coach low level aerobatics at, and in the vicinity of, Tongy airstrip. I am authorised to conduct aerobatics to ground level, not that I do often, but any unexpected turbulence could be disastrous. No genuine studies have been done of turbulence off turbines as large as these, or the superposition of turbulence from several turbines combining. The proximity of the turbines negatively impacts on the quiet enjoyment of my property and surrounds.

ACEN and their consultants, Aviation Projects as, as well as To7o, may have met the letter of the statutory requirements, but fail to actually acknowledge, consider or mitigate the real risk. This appears typical to any factor that is critically damning of the project - it gets ignored, is unacknowledged and thus is unmitigated. This head in the sand approach is unprofessional and unacceptable for achieving aviation safety.

Despite DPIE directing ACEN to consult with us directly in 2022 on advice from CASA, they have never done so, getting their consultants to do desk top reviews instead. We request that the IPC or DPIE again direct ACEN to talk to us in person about the real aviation hazards prior to approval and prior to drafting of an Aviation Management Plan.

Firefighting. - Condition B54 refers to firefighting and some storage of water on site. This is insufficient as aerial firefighting will be severely limited within and near the project. Thus RFS volunteers, people like me who oppose the project, will be

compelled to go into the project area and fight the fire from the ground without air support. The addition of 300+ ignition sources of bushfire is asking for trouble, turbine fires are not uncommon. Blade throw of up to a kilometre increases complexity of dealing with a turbine fire. BESS/Lithium battery fires are another unacceptable hazard added to our already fire-prone region.

During fire season we keep RFS tankers and private fire fighting vehicles loaded at the ready, and the proponent should be required to do the same. It is unfair to rely on local RFS volunteers and services, as these are minimal. Both Dunedoo and Coolah have no permanent Fire and Rescue personnel stationed there - the town brigades are also wholly manned by volunteers now, like the RFS. Similarly, there was once three policemen and their families based in Coolah, at present there are none. Additional Conditions of Consent should include no turbine operation in high fire danger conditions and that an equipped and trained fire crew is maintained in each project area at all times during the fire season.

This is a video of large air tanker at work on our neighbour's property in March 2024 - B737 drops at less than 200ft using fuselage length as a reference. Turbines will be 250m/850ft.

The aerial firefighting case study always referenced by proponents is the Waterloo wind project fire some years ago in South Australia. This project is 43 x 130m turbines distributed linearly along a North-South ridge. The fire burnt ~50ha of grassland, the fire was started by the local Fire Captain, and the response was unrealistically impeccable! The wind project had staff on site, small aerial tankers were used and the

fire was out in 3-4 hours. This case study is not representative and should not be referenced any more by proponents to support their projects. Contrast this to VOTW and LR with a random pattern of 200m+ turbines on high ground, obscured by smoke with heavy turbulence like we had in the 2017 Sir Ivan Fire that burnt 55000Ha even with unobstructed large tanker assistance. Fire burnt southern half the VOTW project area/Leadville and Girragulang areas. This is serious business, and parking the turbines in the bunny ears position is irrelevant for large tankers.

What is in the Emergency Plans that we are not allowed see? Why?

Bisphenol-A. Assessment Report p61 Contamination and p71 of the Environmental Planning Instrument. No consideration of contamination caused by the project, or specifically blade erosion, is mention in the Recommendation report or the Conditions of Consent. There is no acknowledgement of blade erosion and the consequent spreading of BPA from the epoxy over the land and water. Contamination of the food chain or exposure to micro plastics, PFAS and asbestos are belaboured over by the press, with long running inquiries, court actions and compensation schemes at huge cost, and here we have a future unsolvable contamination problem in the making and it is all ignored. Failing cancelling the project altogether, a condition of consent must be effective and transparent ongoing land and water contamination monitoring. At present there is no requirement in the conditons of consent. We certainly will be taking baseline measurements of our soil and water to use in later legal action if needed. LPA/MSA Accreditation slides.

Rehabilitation Condition B61. Concrete pads are left with 2000 tonnes of concrete

in each.. No tree will grow. A condition of consent should be that turbines be mounted on pier-type footings rather than mass gravity foundations. Much less concrete required and a much smaller footprint remaining after turbine removal (slide).

Counterproductive to Stated Aim. Immense local destruction of farmland and habitat is contrary to saving the planet. Play Steve Nowakowski's slides here.

Conclusion

denial of reality, constrained by your directives.

real risks are not addressed

real failing are not acknowledged.

89% of submissions to the EIS were opposed, WSC opposes. 105 submissions, 94 oppose to EIS (89%). Similar ratio to LRWF amendment. 63 local within 15km, 55 opposed within 15km, = 86% opposed.

ditto presenters at IPC.

20 hosts, 26 associated neighbours. 87 non-associated within 4.95km.

going against the informed majority, and we are not wrong.

number of opposition speakers today , no one wants or needs this, no social licence.

reality not allowed to impose on ideologically driven fantasy

but all 'legal' and done correctly IAW.

'just following orders/just doing my job' does not excuse the scale of the cost and destruction of community for no physical gain.

no 'greater good' as whole scheme is counterproductive due to using more energy and material to produce less power/low capacity factor.

acting on 'projections', not evidence

LRWF nearby. REZ total impact?

Grant Piper AASM, DFSM

BE(Aero) UNSW 1986

MRAS

Ex-RAAF Pilot, C130, Forward Air Controller

Commercial Pilot Licence

Instructor

Unlimited Aerobatic Endorsement to ground level

Coalition/Nationals

REER Act 200 is the foundation for all the subsidies

Howard/Anderson

Sale of NSW power assets started with Keneally (Lab) in 2010

Sale of Generation Assets and Transgrid et al was by O'Farrell/Stoner in 2013

Final Sale of poles and wires by Berejiklian/Barilaro in 2017

EEA Act 2020 that established REZs and resurrected EnergyCo was Berij/Barilaro with

Kean as Energy Minister. 17 days go to whoa in November 2020.

Climate Change Net Zero Act 2023 was Minns with Coalition support.

Only John Ruddick and SFF have been consistent in their opposition of VRE.