

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Noeleen Hazell

**Date Received:** 15 September 2020

Chair on Environment and Planning,  
Alex Greenwich MP

Dear Mr Greenwich MP

The Yass Landscape Guardians are 'Activist' in our local district and Communities---  
PROTECT THE LANDSCAPE OF THE YASS VALLEY & COPPABELLA HILLS FROM  
INDUSTRIALISATION

On behalf of the Yass Landscape Guardians we again submit our opposition to the destructive  
Industrial Wind Turbine projects

Re: Inquiry's Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect new economic challenges facing NSW  
in light of the Covid 19 pandemic

We attach our submission from September 2019, to which there was never a response--- (To this  
annual Inquiry 15-9-20)

The History of the Yass Valley Wind Farm FYI

To repeat Point 1: There are NO economic benefits, THE REGULATION ECONOMIST, MR ALAN  
MORAN HAS QUOTED CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES WILL ADD A FURTHER COST TO  
HOUSEHOLDS OF \$13 BILLION PER YEAR; without the cost of Transmission lines

As the Nation is now in recession, all proposed /approved Industrial Wind and large Solar projects  
MUST be STOPPED

The Coppabella project will cost \$600 million and now requires a 39 km transmission line rebuild, to  
be paid by the Proponents as a rent over the life of the project a further cost of \$40 million;  
then conceded a new 132/332 kV transformer was required to transmit the intermittent power to the  
Grid, a further cost of \$40 million ---who pays 'up front' ??

Many Yass Landowners impacted by the 99M rebuild will also be impacted by the Hume Link 500 kV  
transmission line

These are unnecessary costs to the State/Nation at this time; the duration of these devastating  
projects thrust on rural communities 2005 – 2007-8 is a huge cost to rural landowners, both in time  
(meeting /submissions etc. ) land value and mental anguish and fatigue; this cannot be recovered  
It is a sad reflection on the Bureaucrats' within Government that the hysteria of 'climate change' would  
permit an Energy project developed in 1887 to destroy the pristine rural landscape in 2020; have we  
not progressed in 133 years??

Thank you

Noeleen Hazell

Chair –YLG



## THE HISTORY of the YASS VALLEY WIND FARM---COPPABELLA/MARILBA PRECINCTS

First developed by Origin in 2007-8; purchased by Epuron in 2009

The DPE recommended the entire Yass Valley Wind Farm be REFUSED on the 5 – 1- 15; EPURON re referred the entire project during 2015 (without consultations) the DPE under the incoming Minister Rob Stokes , set a precedent and ‘split’ the project – ( without any consultations) recommending to PAC to only approve the 79 Turbines on the Western portion of the project on the 5 -2-16, insisting the residents could cope with the visual impact and the noise and health impacts would be residual.

Allowing the WHITEFIELD ROAD to remain as the access road to the entire project –to allow the link back to the eastern Marilba Precinct at a later time.

The PAC approved the western portion, the Coppabella Precincts on the 30-3-16.

### WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC MEETINGS

The PAC received an Apparent Breach of Code of Conduct from the Auditor General in January 2017-- re: Decisions made during 2016 – No Inquiry ??

GOLDWIND purchased the entire project in February 2017, immediately applied for VARIATION TO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO APPROVAL; with Approved Action:

The Construction and Operation and eventual decommissioning of a WIND FARM of up to 126 TURBINES , this would allow access back to the Marilba Precinct for a further extension of the project.

GOLDWIND then made application for a significant modification, increasing the height of the Turbines from 150 to 171 metres and Blade length to 70 metres.

The DPE in 2018 (Minister Anthony Roberts) then recommended the proposed modification of the Coppabella Wind Farm to the new IPC for approval---completely ignoring the 85 submissions lodged OBJECTING to the project.

The IPC, completely ignoring the impassioned speakers and not bothering to look at the short power point presentation at the Public forum held in Yass, followed by a site visit accompanied by the Proponent the following day in November 2018, APPROVED the Modification on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The proposed NSW Government review of the IPC in September 2019, has not been disclosed.

The approval granted was to connect 75 Turbines to the Grid via the existing 99M transmission line by re appointed (Minister Rob Stokes); the Proponent finally conceded the 99M is not sufficient to support the Grid and are now financing TransGrid to rebuild a 39 km double circuit transmission line, the 9R0 and construct a new transformer at the Yass TransGrid Site at a cost of \$40 million. The new 9R0 line was NOT the approved connection to the Grid.

Goldwind PREMATURLEY CLEARED 3 HBT plus 10 mature trees on the Whitefield Road , the day prior to attending the Coppabella CCC meeting on the 22-8-19, confirming (recorded in the Minutes) the project cannot commence until the agreement is signed with TransGrid. Clearly exposing the collusion with DPE,IPC and also TransGrid.

### HOW WAS THIS PROJECT EVER APPROVED???

From 2009/13 the OE&H have continually assessed the ACCESS ROAD, the WHITEFIELD ROAD and the entire WHITEFIELD AREA as the HIGHEST ECOLOGICAL AREA of the WHOLE SITE; and there must be NO DISTURBANCE to ROADSIDE VEGETATION.

During 2013 EPURON had drawn a map to show the access road would be via a private property "Kia-Ora", as the WHITEFIELD ROAD was not suitable as the access road.

The DPE and PAC disregarded the OE&H assessment when approving the Coppabella Precinct in 2016, allowing the clearing of 49 Hollow Bearing Trees on the highly valued ecological Whitefield Road .

Following another site visit in January 2018, the OE&H again found several area were incorrectly mapped in the environmental assessment and that several area mapped as exotic were native.

The project now consists of variables which change when the construction team arrive on the site.

The 'open ended' approval for the Whitefield Road is a MINIMUM CLEARANCE OF 5 METRES with NO RESTRICTIONS ON MAXIMUM CLEARANCE!!

With the road cut on another project (approx 50 metres) this would allow Goldwind to clear the Whitefield Road at least a further 40 metres. The damage to the steep fragile Coppabella hills will be irreversible.

The NWFC visited the site in late 2017 and agreed the WHITEFIELD ROAD is NOT a suitable access road and the Whitefield Road and Coppabella South Precinct should be removed from the project.

There are two alternate access roads—the Berremangra Road, wider, sealed and not a tree to be destroyed ; the most suitable entrance is directly from the highway onto a Hosts property, this access would be less costly to the Proponents as there would not be any restrictions or expenses incurred with Local Council or Roads & Maritime Services as there are no centre trees along that section of the highway. ( Letter/Photos sent to RMS)  
Either of these alternate access roads would eliminate the use of the Whitefield Road and Coppabella South precinct. Exposing collusion with Hosts/ DPE in 2016.

The mental fatigue of neighbours and the community is becoming evident by the day; it is appalling, in this previously close rural community, a Rural Health RAMPH Coordinator was advised to attend a CCC meeting in May 2019.

The impacted Landowners/neighbours have NOT received SUPPORT from any level of Government. We are entitled to be heard and consulted.

There must be a MORATORIUM until THERE IS AN INQUIRY and all unanswered questions with this MARGINAL PROJECT and other proposed/approved intermittent renewable projects have been answered. There are 8 W T Projects constructed/approved in Eden Monaro electorate. Industrialisation in rural Yass Valley & Coppabella Hills MUST STOP