

Submission
No 22

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation: Snowy River Shire Council
Name: Mr Murray Blackburn-Smith
Position: Director Environmental Services
Date received: 10/08/2009



SNOWY RIVER SHIRE COUNCIL

A.B.N. 21 862 479 274

"A Caring Community in a Unique Environment with a Prosperous Future"
1906 - 2006: A centenary of service to the community

Officer: Murray Blackburn-Smith
Tel:

4 August 2009

The Director,
General Purpose Standing Committee No.5
Legislative Council, Parliament House
Macquarie Street SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Ms Rhia Victorino

Dear Madam,

Inquiry into wind farms - Submission

Reference is made to the abovementioned matter.

Firstly, thank you for being given the opportunity to make a submission in relation to this matter. Council appreciates being consulted and would welcome an opportunity expand upon our submission, should the committee so wish.

Second, In 2005 Snowy River Shire Council commenced a discussion with our community in anticipation developing a policy on wind energy facilities. The policy ultimately manifested itself in two principal land use planning documents:

1. Snowy River Rural Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2007; and
2. Snowy River Rural Development Control Plan (DCP) 2008.

In terms of permissibility, the LEP enables wind energy facilities to be developed in all rural localities within the Shire.

The general policy guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities are contained within the DCP. A full copy of which can be obtained from our web site <<http://www.snowyriver.nsw.gov.au/SRSC/HOMEPAGE//pc=pc=home.htm>>

The following is an extract from our DCP outlining the general policy guidelines:

Definition

A wind energy facility is defined in the Snowy River Rural Local Environmental Plan 2007 as meaning "land used to generate electricity by wind force and includes any turbine, building or other structure or thing used in or in connection with the generation of electricity by wind force. It does not include turbines principally used to supply electricity for domestic or rural use of the land or anemometers."

Background

Wind farms are significant form of green energy production. Wind energy facilities require a significant amount of planning to ensure that they do not have a detrimental impact on people and the landscape.

Objectives

There are two main objectives for the development of wind energy facilities within the Shire. Development should be consistent with each objective. The objectives are:

- a) To plan for future wind energy facilities in rural locations in a way that reduces potential for impacts on residential dwellings, agricultural activities and scenic landscapes; and
- b) To ensure new wind energy facilities include provisions for education and tourism opportunities associated with the development without creating unreasonable impacts on public infrastructure.

Performance criteria and acceptable solutions for wind energy facilities

Performance Criteria	Example Solutions
<p>The Example Solutions illustrate ONE WAY of meeting the associated Performance Criteria.</p>	
<p>9.4.1 Visual Impacts</p> <p>a) The proposal does not detract from the rural setting and landscape.</p> <p>Note: Clause 36 of the Rural LEP requires that wind energy facilities are not located within 1.5km of a dwelling and 5km of an urban area.</p>	<p>9.4.1 Visual Impacts</p> <p>a) The proposal is not located within an area identified as significant for high landscape values or scenic quality by a statutory plan; and</p> <p>b) The proposal identifies and mitigates against adverse impacts on significant views including identified view corridors and sightlines from key public and private viewpoints and in particular, the effects of blade glint and shadow flicker on the immediate area.</p>
<p>9.4.2 Noise</p> <p>a) The proposal does not create adverse noise impacts on adjoining properties.</p>	<p>9.4.2 Noise</p> <p>a) The increase in noise, when measured at the nearest building or proposed dwelling, does not exceed 5dBA above ambient background noise or an absolute level of 35dBA, whichever is greater.</p>
<p>9.4.3 Communications infrastructure interruption</p> <p>a) Existing telecommunications infrastructure is not adversely impacted.</p>	<p>9.4.3 Communications infrastructure interruption</p> <p>a) The proposed development does not impact on emergency, radio, television or other telecommunications as demonstrated by relevant testing and reporting; and</p> <p>b) The proponent has demonstrated contact with relevant telecommunications service providers to ensure all services are considered.</p>
<p>9.4.4 Traffic impacts</p> <p>a) Traffic generation does not unreasonably impact the local and regional road network.</p>	<p>9.4.4 Traffic impacts</p> <p>a) A traffic and transport assessment prepared by a suitably qualified professional accompanies the development application which demonstrates that the existing road network is capable of supporting the proposed development and, where necessary, the mitigation measures that are to be implemented; and</p> <p>b) The proposed development considers and makes provision for tourist facilities and associated infrastructure works; and</p> <p>c) Towers are set back a minimum of 250 metres from a public road to avoid distraction of drivers; and</p> <p>d) The application must be referred to the local/regional traffic committee.</p>
<p>9.4.5 Aviation</p>	<p>9.4.5 Aviation</p>

Performance Criteria	Example Solutions
<p>a) Potential impacts with aviation related activities have been avoided.</p>	<p>a) Where towers are over 110 metres in height, warning lights are positioned on the top of the tower to ensure visibility by aviation craft; and</p> <p>b) Where the proposed site is within 30 kilometres radius of an airfield, the proponent has demonstrated contact with relevant aviation authorities and providers, such as the Department of Defence and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, to ensure all impacts have been addressed.</p>
<p>9.4.6 Construction</p> <p>a) Construction impacts have been considered and mitigated in the design of the construction process.</p>	<p>9.4.6 Construction</p> <p>a) A construction management plan prepared by a suitably qualified professional accompanies the development application, which identifies any staging of the proposal, environmental controls (such as sediment and erosion controls), heavy vehicle movements and access points, and construction timetables.</p>
<p>9.4.7 Decommissioning</p> <p>a) Upon decommissioning of the facility, site rectification is completed.</p>	<p>9.4.7 Decommissioning</p> <p>a) A site decommissioning plan accompanies the development application which demonstrates that the following will occur as soon as the turbine generators become redundant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Any rights of carriageway are extinguished; ii All infrastructure associated with the development (excluding footings) is to be dismantled and removed from the site by the proponent, and iii Sufficient monies will be retained by Council in Trust, as a security against the proponent not being able to comply with the site decommissioning plan.

I hope this of assistance with your enquiry.

Should you wish to make any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the above on [redacted] between the hours of 8.30am and 10.30am Monday to Friday.

Yours faithfully



Murray Blackburn-Smith
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES