Supplementary Submission No 67a

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation:

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd

Name:

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Position:

Development Director

Date received:

26/10/2009

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Mr Ian Cohen MLC, Chair General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 Parliament House Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000



Dear Mr. Cohen

Supplementary Submission by Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd to the Rural Wind Farm Inquiry

1. Introduction

It is requested that this letter is treated as a supplementary submission by Wind Prospect CWP (WPCWP), in addition to our initial submission to the Committee's inquiry into the Rural Wind Farms in NSW.

This submission provides specific additional information in relation to the wind farm investigations in the Golspie area, north of Goulburn, in response the Public Hearing held in Goulburn on 1 October 2009. In particular, WPCWP wishes to detail the degree of consultation undertaken with respect to the stage of our investigations and our knowledge of landholder opinions in the area. This supplementary submission is in direct response to Inquiry submissions and correspondence with a non-local landholder.

2. Landholder discussions and consultation

WPCWP are in the early stages of wind resource monitoring and modelling in the Golspie area from which we are assessing the potential for a commercial wind farm project. Correspondingly, the level of consultation has been focused upon those landholders that have the potential to be involved in a project, primarily those landholders that possess high ground and ridgelines to maximise the potential wind resource. Involvement in a project has been sought through a number of individual and group meetings in 2008 and 2009 and subsequently the execution of a Licence Agreement between both parties which permits WPCWP to undertake onsite exploratory investigations. Consequently, a wind monitoring mast was installed in a location central to the area under investigation in May 2009. As the landholders understand, if the economics and initial constraints analysis prove suitable, then we will develop a preliminary concept design for the wind farm and go public with the project to initiate consultation. It is at that stage when a broader and more comprehensive consultation process will commence, spearheaded by face-to-face discussions with all landholders within a radius of about 3 to 5km of the conceptual project area. Further to this, information about WPCWP, the conceptual project and importantly a feedback form and contact details for WPCWP representatives are disseminated to the local area which is geared to feeding into our development constraints, and ultimately shape the final proposal submitted to the Department of Planning.

At the Public Hearing held in Goulburn, one of the landholders involved with the Golspie investigations spoke in relation to his own experience of the investigations undertaken into wind farm potential in the Golspie area, and specifically the management by WPCWP. The landholder is the recognised primary

contact for the involved landholder group, and spoke as an individual and not a representative of WPCWP or the other landholders. In his response to the committee, he was very supportive of the process being undertaken by WPCWP for the investigations, basing his comments on his own investigations and involvement in a number of group and individual discussions with WPCWP, as well as his discussions with neighbouring landholders and others in the community.

Through approaching individual landholders in the area, representatives from WPCWP have also had discussions with many neighbours over approximately a two year period. Not all those we have met with have been asked to participate in the investigation, and some who have been asked have chosen not to be involved.

One of those who has not been formally part of the initial investigation is a Sydney based landholder with land in the Golspie area who we are aware has negative attitude to a local wind farm. We will take his and other opinions into consideration if there becomes a significant potential for wind turbines to be located in that area. For this landholder, the Development Manager (DM) for the Golspie area has had at least two detailed phone discussions and also met with him at a café near his place of employment (well outside the Upper Lachlan Shire) to discuss wind farms and our project management. The DM suggested to that he speaks to some of the many local landholders who do support the wind farm investigations and he has chosen not to pursue this course of action. He has told the DM that he has instead approached the Landscape Guardian groups to seek outside support for his position. Furthermore, the landholder has told the DM that he could use his position to draw negative attention to the rural wind farm industry.

3. Conclusion

The landholders that WPCWP have approached are generally very supportive, however, we also appreciate that some are not. This supplementary submission is a reflection of the activities undertaken specifically in the Golspie area and in response to submissions to the Inquiry and private correspondence. We hope that they are of help to the Committee in its deliberations in regard to Rural Wind Farms in NSW.

If you have any questions about our initial or supplementary submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Ed Mounsey

Development Director Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd