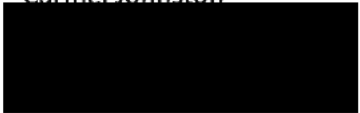


Carmel Johnston



GOOD MORNING

My name is Carmel Johnston and I have been a resident of Mount Fairy for the past 27 years.

My family and I live within 5 kilometres of Capital 1 Wind Farm and are affected by the noise and infrasound created by those wind turbines.

I oppose the modification to the Capital 2 Wind farm because this is not just an administrative amendment to extend the lapsing date of the original project approval, it has far greater consequences.

A five year term is a substantial amount of time to commence construction and asking for an extension demonstrates a lack of planning and project management.

I understand that this PAC meeting is to determine the request of Infigen to extend the approval time that has lapsed for the original Capital 2 Wind Farm application.

In the assessment report it states that we are to comment only on the issue at hand... that is.... Modification no. 4, which is an extension of approval lapse date which was approved in 2011.

However, I would argue that considering an extension to the original application lapse date is indeed discussing the application as a whole and not just another modification.

Its not concerning turbine capacity.....nor blade diameter..... nor even moving transmission lines as in the previous 3x modifications.

It is indeed discussing whether the wind farm proponent is allowed to postpone this project and commence construction at a future date OR

Is to start the application process again.

Infigen has had ample time to start construction or attract investors over this period of time.

In the assessment report it states that the project WAS declared to be "critical infrastructure" by the NSW Government in 2009 and was then approved in 2011.

Surely if the development and operation of these 41 turbines was so critical, then Infigen would not have delayed the construction as investors would have been knocking down their doors.

Within the five year period that Infigen has had to start construction, much has changed;

Public awareness and outrage has increased;

Noise; Health; Ecological and Fire concerns have escalated after the recent fire that started within the Capital 1 Wind Farm project area, which has shown that Infigen's fire protocols are inadequate and need to be re-assessed and therefore a new application is needed to address these issues.

Short comings in a nearby proposed wind farm EIS statement highlight reasons for rejection of extensions because of the importance of the landscape, flora and fauna of the currently pristine ecological state of Lake George.

The Department notes that as part of modification no.2, which was approved in June 2015, that an additional Bird and Bat Impact assessment was undertaken and recommends therefore that no additional conditions are required as there has been no significant changes since the original consent.

However, since 2015 Lake George has returned to being full and therefore has abundant bird life.

Also new information on the critically endangered Bent wing Bats present in the affected area raises questions about the thoroughness of the original EIS for this project.

Since the original application consent and the Bird and Bat impact assessment in June 2015, OEH has had direct access to the Mount Fairy Cave site and has been monitoring the Bent Wing Bats that inhabit them.

It was first believed that the Mount Fairy Caves were only used as a staging or stop over for the Bent Wing Bats that travel from Bungonia Caves to Mount Fairy and then onto Wee Jasper for breeding.

With this new and on-going research it is stated by OEH that the Mount Fairy Caves are used continuously throughout the year and are of great significance and therefore a new DA is needed.

In Infigen's request for an extension to the lapse date, they indicate that Capital 2 wind farm is located approximately 17 kilometres NE of Bungendore township, where in fact the position of the turbines are closer than that and possibly within a 5 kilometre zone from houses in the Buckingham 1 & 2 Estates, and this inadequacy needs to be addressed.

In conclusion, Infigen should not be allowed to have an extension for this proposal because of the changed situations that have been identified and the Department of Planning should not be irresponsible in granting another five years for the continuation of rushed modifications to keep the project alive.

This modification should not be rubber stamped as it carries far greater consequences.

Thank you...