

To the NSW Planning Assessment Commission Panel-regarding the Capital 2 application for an extension of time.

My name is Greg Faulkner and I am a resident of Lower Boro, which is in the centre of the proposed Jupiter wind farm, quite nearby Capital wind farm. I have a strong interest in the fairness of the NSW Wind farm application and modification process. At the moment this process seems to be producing decisions that benefit the developer but do not sufficiently protect local residents.

It is undeniable that the Southern Tablelands area already has a disproportionately high loading of wind turbines. There is strong feeling amongst residents that "enough is enough" and that continued wind farm development in our area is now having considerable negative cumulative impact. The old justification that wind farms are significant local employers and that they stimulate the local economy in any significant positive way no longer fly. Local experience over years has shown that this is really not the case. The construction jobs are fleeting and generally wildly exaggerated in number, and while the turbines remain for decades.

I believe that members of the Department and PAC are gradually developing a greater appreciation of the very real toll on mental and physical wellbeing suffered by local people who have been subjected to years and years of ongoing stress and uncertainty about the wind farms planned for their communities. It is my hope that this appreciation will ultimately lead to fairer decision making which will help protect those citizens unfortunate enough to live in areas targeted for wind farm development.

It seems obvious that wind farm developers need to adhere to the time limits stipulated in their original conditions of consent, otherwise why have time limits at all?

I do appreciate that the Department of planning has recommended a 2 year extension in place of the 5 years requested, however, this means very little if Infigen are simply granted another extension at the end of the two year period.

A time limit with unspoken certainty of renewal is not really a limit at all, but more like a token gesture, or a formality, which creates the impression of a boundary where none really exists.

These types of notional boundaries, with no history of enforcement, do not encourage the compliance of developers nor do they inspire confidence of stake holders and observers; they just erode respect for the process.

Instead of complying with their requests for extensions, it is high time the Department and the PAC sent a message to wind farm proponents to **use it or lose it**.

Wind farm proponents should not be allowed to **sit on approvals and be granted extensions, waiting until the most convenient time to make a start, if ever.**

Please, please remember that the ordinary people unlucky enough to be living in regions targeted for prospective wind farm areas are often forced to radically change their life plans in response to these wind farm developments. Amongst other things home moving and long planned house building is often stopped or postponed, securing finance can become more difficult and some existing residents choose to sell up and move elsewhere. A lot of difficult financial, personal and family decisions have to be considered and then acted upon.

I suppose it is not surprising that this unmarketable aspect of wind farm development does not get much attention. For some reason Wind farm proponents fail to discuss coping strategies for effected residents during "Community information days" or in the FAQ section of their webpages, preferring to insist that turbines have no effect at all.

The point is that pending wind farm developments can be incredibly hard on the people in nearby communities. The time extensions appear endless and both proponents and regulators appear quite happy to look the other way and deny the negative impact on the lives of impact on local people.

The current approach to time frames effectively turns the wind farm application process into a mechanism that is being used by developers to reserve long term rights to areas for their possible future use. They are effectively being provided with a "blank cheque" in relation to time. This does not strike me as the purpose for which the process was intended, and this misuse of the process comes at great expense to the local community's security and peace of mind, over continuously extended periods.

In fact, the entire wind farm application process, from start to finish, lacks any enforced time constraints which might reassure and protect citizens. Wind farm proponents are apparently free to take as long as they please to assess and disrupt helpless communities, to lodge an EIS and then to respond to community submissions. **This developer cantered approach to time requirements is absolutely a recipe for poor mental health in the surrounding local community.**

I would like to make the point that an absence of high numbers of submissions from local people does not necessarily demonstrate acceptance of wind farm modification or applications. Many people in this region have become so demoralised and jaded over years, by the seemingly inevitable approvals meted out by the Department and PAC that they now believe that the approval of **all** wind farm modification applications are a forgone conclusion.

That is to say they are likely not to object because they believe it is a waste of their time.

Allowing Infigen any time extension for Capital 2 would reinforce a precedent to be exploited by other wind farm proponents in the region. It would extend uncertainty for the local community and further damage desirability of residential real estate in the region. It would lower the numbers of people likely to move to the area to live , and reinforce the growing perception that the NSW development system is more concerned with appeasing wind farm proponents than protecting local communities.

I hope that the PAC will finally demonstrate that time limits contained in wind farm consents are in fact LIMITS and that developers must meet them.

I strongly recommend that this application for an extension of time be refused.

Thank You

Greg Faulkner

