



ROSE PERROTT

COMMENT

Submission No: 164285

Organisation:	<i>Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute</i>	Key issues: <i>Social and economic</i>
Location:	<i>New South Wales 2354</i>	
Submitter Type:	<i>I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development</i>	
Attachment:	<i>Hall committee submission to IPC for Thunderbolt wind farm.pdf</i>	

Submission date: 3/16/2024 2:21:08 PM

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute committee, are writing to you regarding the Thunderbolt Windfarm Proposal and the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement for the benefit sharing funding.

Our committee operates and maintains the Kentucky Memorial Hall as well as running community events and, in matters of high impact for the community, advocating for our Kentucky community. The Hall has been central to the Kentucky community for nearly 100 years. Significant community events, such as your Public Meeting for the proposed Thunderbolt Wind Farm Project (the project) have always been held in our community Hall. The hall also hosts things such as fortnightly play group, book club, bush dances, school presentations, movie nights, birthday parties and exercise classes. The hall really is central to the Kentucky community.

We will not go into whether the project should or should not go ahead as this is a divisive matter within our community. However, should the project go ahead we do need to be sure that the community is appropriately compensated for the impacts the project has on the Kentucky community.

The developer proposed a benefit sharing arrangement where 1.5% of the construction costs, over \$5M, go into a community fund to be administered by an independent entity over the 30 year life of the project. They proposed that the benefit sharing funding be split 50/50 between Tamworth LGA and Uralla LGA, with a priority placed on projects within the impacted community (ie the Kentucky community). Tamworth Regional Council has 90% of the turbines but, unlike Uralla LGA, there is no community directly impacted by the wind farm except when the turbines are being transported to site. We believe that a 50/50 split of the funding between Tamworth and Uralla LGAs is a fair and equitable approach. This is the funding model the Kentucky Hall committee supports.

This level of funding will have a big impact on our community. At the moment, assets in the Kentucky village are run down and in need of significant upgrades, such as the playground and even at our own hall. Often these assets are not fit for purpose and the community would utilise them much more if they were. The level of funding proposed makes these projects possible and would significantly improve social cohesion within the community, as well as improving mental and physical health of the community. The benefits for the community cannot be overstated.

Therefore, it was extremely disappointing to discover that, without any public consultation let alone consultation with the impacted community, Uralla Shire Council (USC) and Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) have come to the agreement that the funding will be split 60% to Tamworth LGA and 40% to Uralla LGA. Of the portion allocated to Uralla LGA, 66% will be given to USC to administer and 33% will go into a community fund.



The committee does not have confidence that Uralla Shire Council will be able to deliver this funding to the community in a fair and equitable manner. Not only have our past dealings with USC given us significant cause for concern, the fact that they have not consulted the community at all in this matter is huge cause for alarm.

The Kentucky Hall is an organisation that stands to benefit significantly from this funding and the concept of dealing with USC to not only approve our access to this funding for our hall but to also manage our projects, is so concerning that it is almost distressing. USC being responsible for the management and the delivery of this fund is not in the best interest of our community. The Kentucky community is not a priority for the USC, which is responsible for the assets across a large area - some as far as Bundara, over 100 km from the proposed wind farm. If USC is responsible for the management and delivery of the funding then Kentucky, as the impacted community, will lose all advantage when competing for the funding against internal council projects and other communities. Due to understaffing, USC is also not agile and efficient enough to deliver the great outcomes the community needs from a project such as this.

The lack of transparency and consultation with our community in their negotiations with the developer for this funding demonstrates that Uralla Shire Council is not fit to be delivering the benefit sharing fund in the spirit intended by the developer. Allowing the proposed Voluntary Planning Arrangement to go ahead in its current form would be the worst outcome for our community and it should not be recommended by the Independent Planning Commission. We support the original funding arrangement proposed by the developer and, should the Thunderbolt Windfarm Project go ahead, we want an independent entity to be delivering the funding as this would be the fairest solution for not only our community but the broader Uralla region.

Yours Sincerely

Rose Perrott

Secretary

On behalf of The Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute Committee.

Angus Carter â€œ President

Steve Ward â€œ Vice President

Rose Perrott â€œ Secretary

Beatrice Bashford â€œ Treasurer

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute committee, are writing to you regarding the Thunderbolt Windfarm Proposal and the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement for the benefit sharing funding.

Our committee operates and maintains the Kentucky Memorial Hall as well as running community events and, in matters of high impact for the community, advocating for our Kentucky community. The Hall has been central to the Kentucky community for nearly 100 years. Significant community events, such as your Public Meeting for the proposed Thunderbolt Wind Farm Project (the project) have always been held in our community Hall. The hall also hosts things such as fortnightly play group, book club, bush dances, school presentations, movie nights, birthday parties and exercise classes. The hall really is central to the Kentucky community.

We will not go into whether the project should or should not go ahead as this is a divisive matter within our community. However, should the project go ahead we do need to be sure that the community is appropriately compensated for the impacts the project has on the Kentucky community.

The developer proposed a benefit sharing arrangement where 1.5% of the construction costs, over \$5M, go into a community fund to be administered by an independent entity over the 30 year life of the project. They proposed that the benefit sharing funding be split 50/50 between Tamworth LGA and Uralla LGA, with a priority placed on projects within the impacted community (ie the Kentucky community). Tamworth Regional Council has 90% of the turbines but, unlike Uralla LGA, there is no community directly impacted by the wind farm except when the turbines are being transported to site. We believe that a 50/50 split of the funding between Tamworth and Uralla LGAs is a fair and equitable approach. This is the funding model the Kentucky Hall committee supports.

This level of funding will have a big impact on our community. At the moment, assets in the Kentucky village are run down and in need of significant upgrades, such as the playground and even at our own hall. Often these assets are not fit for purpose and the community would utilise them much more if they were. The level of funding proposed makes these projects possible and would significantly improve social cohesion within the community, as well as improving mental and physical health of the community. The benefits for the community cannot be overstated.

Therefore, it was extremely disappointing to discover that, without any public consultation let alone consultation with the impacted community, Uralla Shire Council (USC) and Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) have come to the agreement that the funding will be split 60% to Tamworth LGA and 40% to Uralla LGA. Of the portion allocated to Uralla LGA, 66% will be given to USC to administer and 33% will go into a community fund.

The committee does not have confidence that Uralla Shire Council will be able to deliver this funding to the community in a fair and equitable manner. Not only have our past dealings with USC given us significant cause for concern, the fact that they have not consulted the community at all in this matter is huge cause for alarm.

The Kentucky Hall is an organisation that stands to benefit significantly from this funding and the concept of dealing with USC to not only approve our access to this funding for our hall but to also manage our projects, is so concerning that it is almost distressing. USC being responsible for the management and the delivery of this fund is not in the best interest of our community. The Kentucky community is not a priority for the USC, which is responsible for the assets across a large area - some as far as Bundara, over 100 km from the proposed wind farm. If USC is responsible for the management and delivery of the funding then Kentucky, as the impacted community, will lose all advantage when competing for the funding against internal council projects and other communities. Due to understaffing, USC is also not agile and efficient enough to deliver the great outcomes the community needs from a project such as this.

The lack of transparency and consultation with our community in their negotiations with the developer for this funding demonstrates that Uralla Shire Council is not fit to be delivering the benefit sharing fund in the spirit intended by the developer. Allowing the proposed Voluntary Planning Arrangement to go ahead in its current form would be the worst outcome for our community and it should not be recommended by the Independent Planning Commission. We support the original funding arrangement proposed by the developer and, should the Thunderbolt Windfarm Project go ahead, we want an independent entity to be delivering the funding as this would be the fairest solution for not only our community but the broader Uralla region.

Yours Sincerely

Rose Perrott
Secretary

On behalf of The Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute Committee.

Angus Carter – President
Steve Ward – Vice President
Rose Perrott – Secretary
Beatrice Bashford – Treasurer