



ANDREW GLENCROSS

OBJECT

Submission No: 196774

Organisation:	Key issues: <i>Social and economic, Land use, Visual, Traffic and Transport</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2820</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	
Attachment:	

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To the IPCN panel members,

I would like to thank you for attending my property to consider the impacts me and my family will experience in fronting the Spicers Creek Windfarm Project. What I may not have discussed more extensively is the impacts on my farm business both directly and indirectly by the project.

I am deeply concerned about the impacts of sound and vibration on our property. Current modelling provided to us by Squadron Energy is based on estimates only and cannot be modelled accurately due to projects of this size and scale not existing currently in Australia. My solicitor pointed out to me that we could request Squadron Energy to provide a simulation of the sound that the project will make on property location. We requested a simulation of the sound, representatives from Squadron Energy directed us to attend the Bodangora Windfarm project, which we are already aware of due to our close proximity to this project. I do not believe standing under a wind turbine approximately half the size of the Spicerâ€™s Creek turbines will equate to the cumulative noise and vibration of 117, 258 metre turbines. When I had the benefit of attending an area where there were 5 of the Bodangora Wind farm turbines located in close proximity, I felt dizziness from the shadow flicker and there was significant noise emitted from the 5 turbines to the point of wanting to move away from these as we were positioned under one turbine around 100 meters away with the other turbines being located 500 meters up to 2 kilometres from my location. We feel Squadron Energy have not done enough to help us understand sound and vibration impacts on our property. We were later made aware by community members who also live in close proximity to the project, that Squadron Energy took a number of signed hosts and signed neighbours to the Crudine Ridge Windfarm to understand the impacts, again I believe this is a misrepresentation of the impacts of the proposed Spicerâ€™s Creek Windfarm Project as the Crudine project only consists of 37 wind turbines that have a total tip height of 160 metres, a dwarf in comparison to the proposed Spicers Creek project.

Additional to the sound and vibration is the impact of infrasound on breeding animals, and on mine and my familyâ€™s health and wellbeing. It was suggested to me by an agricultural peer that infrasound from wind turbines has adverse effects on breeding fertility of all animals. As a sheep producer this is a core part of my income, our current reproductive rates are at over 120% average across all breeding ewes we currently run. With over 40 years of genetics in our breeding ewes, a large proportion of this statistic can be attributed to genetics, as well as livestock management. In a study on â€˜Adverse Health Effects in the Environs of Industrial Wind Turbines â€“ Applying the Bradford Hill Criteria of Causation (08/03/2015)â€™. This study was able to draw direct causation to decreased fertility, reproduction, and developmental affects in all animals, with most significant evidence around still-births. This study is available on an Australian Government website, it concerns me deeply as this will have a significant and obvious impact on our income. I am also concerned for my children, as we have an intergenerational farm and this could have implications on their own children, or lack thereof. While there is no recognition of this effect in legislation, it is certainly a concern and demonstrates the miss placement of industrial wind energy projects on agricultural land and near residences.

While I am aware that the IPCN panel members do not want submissions regarding perceived loss of land value, it would be hard to argue with the outlook of my residence that property value would not be



impacted. In our area there have been two properties that have been up for sale in the last 12 months, the first property sold at excellent value, and was not an associated neighbour of the project. The second property has a listing price at market value and has a Spicer's Creek Windfarm neighbour agreement attached to property, this property is still unsold and was first auctioned in March 2024. We did not enter into a neighbour agreement with Squadron Energy due to legal advice on the financial and legal impacts for ourselves and our property asset. While it could be argued that impacts might be indirectly related to property prices and sales, as individuals with reduced financial power, we have little ability to mitigate market affects that are induced by major projects such as industrial windfarms located in close proximity to our property.

In recent years, farm insurance has become a significant aspect of our farm budget, with current farm insurance costs being over \$20,000 per annum. This level of insurance barely covers our functional business assets and public liability of \$20 million. In documents from the Australian Insurance Council, it is acknowledged that neighbours of major energy projects with functional businesses will face increased public liability based on the associated value of the major project. In recommendations from the Australian Insurance Council and AEIC, major energy projects should be covering the costs of insurance premiums of direct neighbours. We have had no such offer from Squadron Energy, and if insurance costs associated continue to exceed inflation due to renewable energy projects, it will quickly make our business unviable. I believe that Squadron's considerations and negotiations around this have been poor and lacking in facts, Squadron representatives have stated that their own insurance will be sufficient, we have never seen and certificates of currency or policies that would indicate this to be true.

Another significant concern is Squadron Energy's failure to identify screening with vegetation is not appropriate and will not be sufficient to mitigate the impacts of visual and sound amenities on our home or business. In a report that we requested to be completed again, a landscaping company hired by Squadron Energy to complete assessments on our property relating to impacts of visual amenity. In both reports the landscaping company referred to screening with vegetation, even providing a satellite generated image of where the vegetation would be planted. When the landscaping company and Squadron Energy representatives visited our site, we showed them the existing infrastructure located to the east of our home, which includes a septic tank and rubble drain for the septic tank, power lines and reticulated bore piping and infrastructure. The identified area for affective vegetation was directly on top of the septic piping, rubble drain and directly underneath powerlines. This was completely unacceptable for us as the vegetation cannot be planted under powerlines due to fire risk and risk of damage to power infrastructure and cannot be planted nearby septic infrastructure due to damage to infrastructure due to vegetation roots invading pipes. To plant further out would mean that the vegetation would still be very close to power lines and on top of bore reticulation pipes, again at risk of damage from vegetation roots. We would also be set to lose valuable arable land, which is something we are not being compensated for. Landscapers and Squadron Energy acknowledged that due to our elevated aspect it is not possible for vegetation screening to be effective as a solution, yet they continued to write this in an official report provided to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. While Squadron Energy representatives keep saying to us that other screening options will be considered, we do not have his in writing to us. Squadron Energy requested we get quotes for manual screening of our eastern aspect; we were not able to get a builder to quote due to no time frame for completion of works and concern about cost blowout over time. At this point in time we have no solutions from Squadron Energy relating to the mitigation of visual and sound impacts on our home and business.

What I have identified has very serious implications toward our business operations, loss of income and loss of value on assets, and our ability to live in our home. We have had no financial support from Squadron Energy, even though these impacts would not exist if the Spicer's Creek Windfarm project did not exist. I request that the IPCN do not approve the project in its current location as we have no way of mitigating any of the affects of this major project and have had no support offered by Squadron Energy that does not put us at further financial and legal disadvantage.

I thank you for taking the time to read my objection.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

Sincerely,

Andrew Glencross
