

BANGO PAC Meeting Boorowa 22nd March 2018:

Welcome to the Planning Commissioners in Boorowa today:

I would like to thank the Department of Planning for its recommendation to approve the Bango wind farm, but I do not agree with the one condition imposed to remove turbines from the project based on a subjective visual desktop analysis.

As part of the development the proponent (CWP Renewables) has removed 47 turbines to address community concerns and environmental considerations. The proposed removal of another 3 turbines on visual grounds is a further reduction of 5% of the amended proposal.

I intend to show that there is strong support of the Bango Wind Farm project, and I appeal to the Planning Assessment commissioners that the views of a very small minority should not hold up a development which will improve the local economy AND help Australia meet its renewable energy targets.

1. Introduce myself:

My husband Paul & I have been farming for about 26 years in the district and purchased the property 'Woodlands' near Rye Park, 6 years ago. We are hosting turbines in the Rye Park Wind Farm and have been actively involved in the project for the past 6 years.

I am a strong supporter of wind farms for Australia's future for renewable energy. The Bango wind farm will join others across the Southern Tablelands region to secure the region as a very important part of NSW's clean energy industry.

What the wind farm project means for farmers –

- Having a regular stream of income, not related to rainfall or livestock markets would drought proof farmers' properties and would allow us to continue to operate as primary producers in the current unpredictable climatic environment.
- The construction of the wind farm will allow graziers to continue to use their land alongside the new enterprise of harnessing the renewable resource of 'wind'.
- A source of income independent of rainfall will make our farms more resilient in extended periods of dry weather, by investing in fencing and water systems to better manage ground cover.
- Wind turbines don't "spoil the view" of farmers who are struggling to make a living and want to host them to assist in achieving financial (and therefore environmental) viability.
- The recommended removal of 3 (or 4) additional turbines near the Kangiara village will mean that about \$50,000 per annum in payments will be lost to farmers in the region.

2. What the development of Bango Wind Farm in its entirety will mean for our Local Community (Boorowa, Yass)

- Direct payments to landholders will mean landholders can put money back into their properties, investing in fencing and water systems, to better manage their grazing.
- Indirectly money will flow from landholder hosts back to community for eg. Farmers can pay a mechanic to service their car, pay trades people to build their house.

- This development will bring jobs and families to the region and keep money in the community.
 - Direct payments into a community enhancement fund from the developer in the order of \$200,000 per year will help the community build infrastructure in its towns & support local projects limited only by the inhabitant's imagination.
 - CWP has conducted good consultation with the community. It has landholders who are supporting the construction of turbines on their properties and businesses in the local towns supportive of its development.
 - The closest neighbour to the turbines that are proposed to be removed on visual grounds is not in favour of their removal.
3. What development will mean for State & National Community :
- Federal government have set renewable energy targets, and NSW has stated renewable energy objectives.
 - This Bango project can help NSW capture a lot of the money invested to meet the National Renewable energy targets. If these projects are not approved quickly, NSW stands to lose these projects to Victoria and other states.
4. Environmental Impact
- Surveys show that public consumers want more renewable energy, wind & solar in their electricity mix. There is great pressure from the people for our government to hear this- we do not want more coal mines.
 - This development is in a very windy area- a constant renewable source of energy.
 - The Bango project complies with all Noise, Biodiversity, Traffic and socio-economic guidelines.
 - The Visual review referred to in the major project assessment report is a subjective, desktop assessment devoid of any methodology. I raise concerns about the community consultation it refers to, as there are many people who, like me, like the look of turbines, and were not consulted.
5. Definitive statement addressing Visual amenity:
- I want the Bango project to go ahead in its entirety.
 - The developer, in response to submissions, has already removed 47 turbines from the project in response to community and environmental concerns.
 - The further 3-4 turbines that the Dept Planning is suggesting to remove from the development are a result of a subjective visual review.
 - Visual appeal is subjective, and we like the look of turbines, find them much more visually appealing than coal mines, will ask for our opinion to count.

Please support this project, in its entirety, without additional conditions or removal of turbines.

Linda Cavanagh 22nd March 2018

Phone

