

PRESENTATION at IPC MEETING in YASS on 12th NOVEMBER 2018 –Bruce Hazell

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Bruce Hazell and I have lived on our property “Kia-Ora,” Bookham, for 60 years , both residences C60 and especially residence C06 are adversely impacted by the project. Residence C06 was the only residence within 2. Km of the Turbines of the Approved plan, now 2.8 km, and 400 m from the Whitefield Road . I have NOT succumbed to ‘Bribery’!!

WHITEFIELD ROAD: The destruction to the Whitefield Road would be irreparable; ‘Kia-Ora” is on the east and the adjoining property is on the west (this property was purchased during 2015 when the Department of Planning had recommended the entire project for refusal).

The Office of Environment and Heritage have continually assessed this road and the entire Whitefield area is of very high quality vegetation with an intact grassy understory and a canopy with a high density of tree hollows.

While we had never been consulted during the development, in 2012 Epuron did visit us with a map to TELL us they would construct a road through our property as the Whitefield Road was not suitable to use as the access road. The proposed road would be within 150 m of residence C06 and through a DPI Trial site which had been collating data for 16 years at that time and is still relevant.

However, the Department insist the Whitefield Road is the only access, although the Proponents have listed two alternate roads, the Boyan Road, north of the Coppabella’s and the Berremangra Road, the obvious access road, there is a 3 lane clearer entry from the highway, it is sealed, wide and not one tree to be removed.

The Department representatives did visit the site on the 1st May this year, at our Landscape Guardians invitation, everyone was dismayed when the Director of Resource and Energy Assessments was quite emphatic any project vehicles seen on this Berremangra Road would be stopped and prosecuted. There is no comparison, the Berremangra Road is the only suitable road for the 750 ‘oversized vehicles’, vehicles the length of a 4 trailer ‘rigid’ road train, transporting the components to construct the 75 Turbines , especially as 65 Turbines are on the western precinct.

There is obviously some ‘influence’ dictating the route of the access road !!

HIGHLIGHTING THE DISCRIMINATION TO OUR FAMILY

The visit continued along the Whitefield Road, a pretty but narrow, bendy, dusty country lane with canopy of trees and the Dept. Representative again insisted this is THE ONLY ACCESS ROAD.!! Following the Modification there is now a 5m minimum , NO MAXIMUM.- Open ended approval !!!

The IPC need to see both roads to make a comparison.

SUCCESSION PLANNING: It is unacceptable when a 81 year old farmer of modest means , who has been on their property for 60 years, has the succession plans which involve 3 generations affected by such projects as Industrial Wind Farms devaluing their land. Succession planning should be a time of pleasant reflections and family discussions and bonding, however it has become a time of great concern. As land values, especially as subdivided 'life style' blocks could be devalued by 30 to 60% .

We now feel we are 'trapping' our son, his wife and our Grandsons
When we were informed the entire project was refused in 2015, in preparation for the succession plan, the property adjacent to "Kia-Ora" and joining the western side of the Whitefield Road was purchased, therefore further 'trapping' the next two generations.

DIVIDING THE COMMUNITY: Bookham has always been a very close community, helped by the Soldier Settlement scheme, so many of the projects have been achieved with voluntary working bees, everyone working together and enjoying each others' company. e.g Bookham Hall, Cricket Ground and Tennis Courts.

During the past 60 years there is not one organization one member of our now three generations has not been involved with, either as a member or holding an Executive position at some time.

The Bookham Agricultural Bureau, the only Bureau left in the State, has been a vital contact in the district, working with Rural Advisors, especially during droughts. These organizations are at RISK.

All cause by MONEY!! Neighbour Agreements and Proponents sponsoring Community events.

This would have to be the most devastating project in all those years.

Thank you

Bruce Hazell