



CWO REZist Inc.
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Coolah NSW 2843

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12 July 2024

CWO REZist Inc. is highly concerned that, after urging by a highly paid consultant, working for a French Multinational corporation, DPE re-assessed the visual impact of industrial wind turbines with a high magnitude of negative impact, according to draft wind guidelines that HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED. The Visual Assessment Bulletin (2016) has been used, successfully, for every wind project since its approval.

Matthew Riley, Director of Energy and Resources Policy in DPE, advised our group last year that the DRAFT guidelines would not be applied to any current project and will only apply to projects that put in their DA after the guidelines have been approved.

This reassessment, therefore, is contradictory to advice received by the same department.

When some turbines still failed to be approved using the draft guidelines, IEAPET weighed in (although to our knowledge they have never done so for a commercial project before) with their opinion that the project would be unviable without the full complement of wind turbines and that the project is in the public interest, which apparently outweighs the rights of landowners to enjoy their homes.

With regard to the unviability of a project, the proponent, Engie, is a French multinational corporation that is developing the wind project for profit-driven reasons. If the project is unviable, therefore, this is the responsibility of the developer, not of a government department or an independent advisory body to endeavour to make the project viable on their behalf. This is preferential treatment to a private company and should not be tolerated.

With regard to public interest it is based on false assumptions, some of which are that the project will produce the nameplate capacity of electricity generation 24/7. AEMO's figures reveal that industrial wind projects average around 30% generation of nameplate capacity, therefore this argument is void. We also strongly question the value of a landowner to enjoy their home and successfully run their investment/business, if it can be overridden by the current government's penchant for wind power which all evidence proves to be intermittent, unreliable, using many resources to build/transport/erect, uses blades that are unable to be recycled, are projects that destroy local habitat, property values and are unwanted by a large proportion of the local community.

The recommendation that the proponent can utilise acquisition to acquire the landowner's property that has the highest magnitude of negative impact that cannot be mitigated, is appalling. Up until this time, only the government or its allocated agencies can use acquisition powers for projects, yet DPE is recommending a private, profit-driven multinational corporation can do so. This creates an unacceptable level of concern with every landowner in NSW, whether in a REZ or not, if a developer wishes to place a project near to them. It is basically giving carte blanche to a private corporation

for profit, providing they classify it as state significant or in the public interest.

We find the precedent set by these recommendations as unacceptable and not in the interest of the people of regional NSW. Acceptance of any of these recommendations sets a precedent, even if DPE state it should not be a precedent.

CWO REZist Inc. therefore asks the IPC to

1. reject recommendations based on unapproved, draft guidelines that we were clearly told would NOT apply to existing projects
2. reject recommendations that allow acquisition processes by a non-government agency
3. reject the recommendation that the project can utilise both unapproved draft guidelines and acquisition of private land to make a profit-driven private company's project (whether state significant or not) viable. Viability is the responsibility of the private company concerned and not a cost or responsibility that the government, its agencies or the community should bear.

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