

Independent Planning Commission.

Re: Additional Submission No. 161942 7th March 2024

Dear Commissioners,

I made a submission prior to the event which occurred at the Kentucky Hall on 14th March 2024. However, I realised I may have missed stating my total objection to these towers in the whole New England Area. I also missed asking for time to speak that day Kentucky.

My arguments are:

- As was obvious to me at Kentucky and at many other events about wind towers in New England and the Central West, Energy Co and other government bodies have not prepared an overall strategy for a complete new energy system. Rather the companies who nominate for access to the existing grid have been given far too much leeway with applying pressure on Communities, Councils and the landowners.
- The recent report by the infrastructure Commissioner clearly makes these points.
- There is widespread availability of land in the western areas of NSW generally west of any high-quality farming country where too much damage has already been done, for example in the CWREZ.
- There are many western graziers who have expressed interest in wind and solar installations on their land where there are obviously copious quantities of solar power, usually very reliable with less cloud than in New England. Such farmers can be expected to offer far less resistance than those from New England.
- We have wind maps of the whole of Australia which show that wind towers, of the type the proponents are planning, would receive steady supplies of wind on those farms.
- Importantly these supplies of wind and solar would usually occur at times of the day when the urban demand is highest.
- If the Thunderbolt landowners were to sell their current land and repurchase in the areas we propose they could make large areas of both solar and wind at much less cost.
- Access to the areas suggested is far less expensive for transport and erection plus cause far less environmental damage.
- By contrast this land where TB Wind is now proposed is high quality grazing land for exceptional fine wool suitable for the high-end garment markets worldwide. (Many neighbouring farmers assumed, wrongly it turns out, that the new owners of these properties would export direct the processors and designers of such apparel wear, hence their lack of initial objection to the change of use.)
- In addition to the wool issues this land is high end livestock grazing country with settled environmental management.

- Just this month the State Government has released Native Vegetation Regulatory Maps covering the whole State. The NSW Farmers Association is asking all its Members to review these maps farm by farm, paddock by paddock. So far the member reaction is one of surprise given the many inaccuracies of these maps which are largely remotely drawn from overhead satellite shots and random short visits.
- The IPC should now study these maps and to have a detailed, totally independent, review of the areas where the towers are proposed to be erected along with neighbouring land where the environment will be affected before any determination is made.

Finally, there has been no business study made and released to demonstrate purported benefits or costs to the New England Region and its local communities. This fault applies to nearly all proposed renewable energy project anywhere in the State of New South Wales that I have visited and inspected in the last two years. In fact any so called “benefits” are tied back to the developers to make any decision about their distribution to charities and small local volunteer communities.

Regards,

Richard Croft,

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