

**Spicer's Creek and all Wind Projects**  
**Spicers Creek Wind Farm (SSD-41134610)**

**Disastrous Implications of Turbines for Aerial Firefighting**

- ex-RAAF, 1600hrs C130 Hercules, a type used for aerial firefighting, and the type that crashed in the Snowy Mountains in the 2019/20 fire season with the death of all crew.
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- After flying transports I re-trained as a Forward Air Controller where we were approved to fly down to 50ft, and much of our flying was below 500ft.
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- Pertinent additional duties were Squadron Flying Safety Officer, Flight Commander and Detachment Commander. Completed courses in Flying Safety and Risk Management, Aircrew Team Management, and helped prepare Squadron Risk Management Plan.
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- I also hold civilian low level endorsements, including aerobatics to ground level, and have held training and issuing approval for aerobatics to ground level.
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- I've also been a long-time volunteer member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, and have observed with professional interest aerial firefighting operations during the 2017 Sir Ivan Fire which burnt 55,000 hectares in our district, and then the 2019/20 fire season.
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- Just last February we had another fire near us and I'd like to show some video from that:
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- Video 1 – B737. 200-250ft above obstacles, well below 8-900ft turbines.
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- Video 2 – CL415. Large control inputs, sluggish aircraft response.
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- A C130 has a 132ft (40m) wingspan, weighs 155,000lbs (70 tonne) loaded and would drop below 250km/hr.
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- You don't need peer reviewed papers or an expert panel to tell you Large Air Tankers will be severely impeded by wind turbines. Trust your eyes.
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- The RFS deflects acknowledging any problem by stating that the aircrew will make their own decision based on their own risk assessment.
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- Any honest risk assessment will result in a decision to stay well away. No employer could send staff into such a situation.
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- Poor visibility, smoke, turbulence, terrain, wind monitoring masts make it very hazardous.
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- Dropping retardant from above turbines would make it ineffective, putting lives and property at risk.
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- The RFS management is negligent in protecting life and property by failing to engage sincerely on this topic.

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- Surrounding landowners, who usually make up the bulk of RFS volunteers, would be forced to fight the fire without aerial support within the project area, until it escapes out onto their land.
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- This exposes them to greater risk than otherwise, and they probably disagreed with the project in the first place.
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- We live in a high fire risk area, and there are many cases of wind turbines catching fire due to internal failure (attached pics).
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- This is just one project in the REZ, the cumulative effect of many projects compounds the probability of a catastrophic fire escaping due to no Large Air Tanker support and reliance on limited ground Volunteers.
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- You, the Commissioners, are being tasked to approve this project, and many others around the State, that will result one day in an unnecessary catastrophe.
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- If approved, a condition of consent, the Commission should at least require Squadron Energy to station on-site several suitably qualified and equipped fire fighting teams during the promulgated fire season.

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**FIG 1. GOULBURN JANUARY 2023**



**FIG 2. REDHILL SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 7th FEBRUARY 2024**



**FIG 3. PORTLAND VICTORIA, 28th JUNE 2024**