



RIK SHEPHERD

OBJECT

Submission No: 196762

| | |
|---|--|
| Organisation: | Key issues: <i>Social and economic, Land use, Energy transition, Visual, Traffic and Transport</i> |
| Location: <i>New South Wales 2831</i> | |
| Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i> | |
| Attachment: <i>2024 Spicers Creek Submission R Shepherd.pdf</i> | |

Submission date: 9/5/2024 10:58:36 PM

I have attached my submission as a pdf because of the number of images. many thanks

[Redacted]
 [Redacted]
 Elong Elong NSW 2831
 [Redacted]
 [Redacted]

Thursday, 5 September 2024

Submission

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Having carefully read every available article I could find provided by State and Federal Governments, EnergyCo, Squadron Energy **and** the submissions from our fellow residents concerning the Central West Orana “Renewable” Energy Zone and the Spicer’s Creek Wind “Farm” in particular, I offer the following submission:

Initially Elong Elong was completely excluded from any consultation and only through the efforts of the local citizens were we eventually consulted.

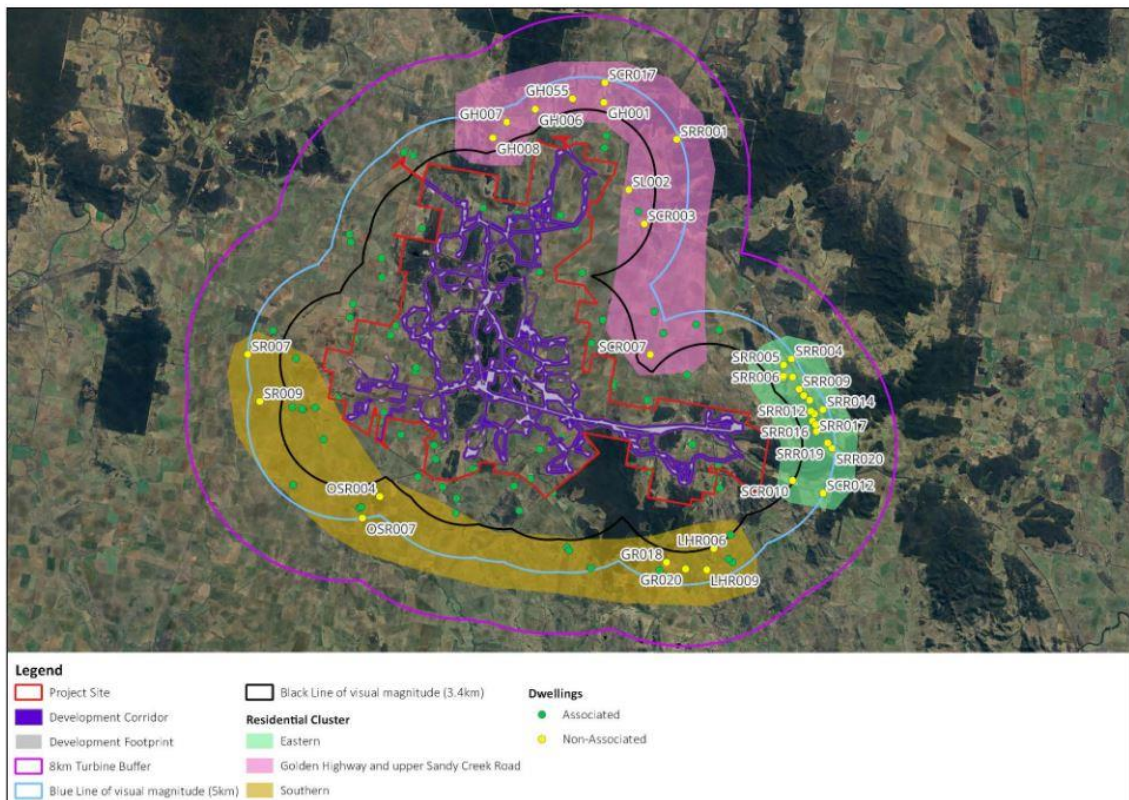


Figure 4 | Visual assessment clusters

The “consultation” consisted of two meetings, neither of which included any meaningful or forthright presentations from Squadron Energy. Rather each venue was set up with easels showing maps and other (often erroneous) information and

the Squadron representatives circulated giving varied, often misleading and often outright lies. to individuals and family groups instead of addressing the **entire** audience at large.

They seemed to forget that all those individuals and family groups talked to everyone else after Squadron left the premises. The variety of said information provided was breathtaking.

Squadron also attended our own property and divulged many other items, portrayed as facts that were also misleading. They took photos, later forwarded on by email, that purported to show the visual impact of the turbines on our eastern horizon.

From the information provided it was painfully obvious that those farmers who were seduced into signing up for turbines on their properties were not given the information they needed to make an informed decision (especially when it came to decommissioning and insurance) and were also compelled to sign a non-disclosure agreement preventing them from sharing their experiences with the rest of the community, in fact they could only express their “delight” at the opportunities Squadron Energy gave them.

Hardly conducive to trust and openness.

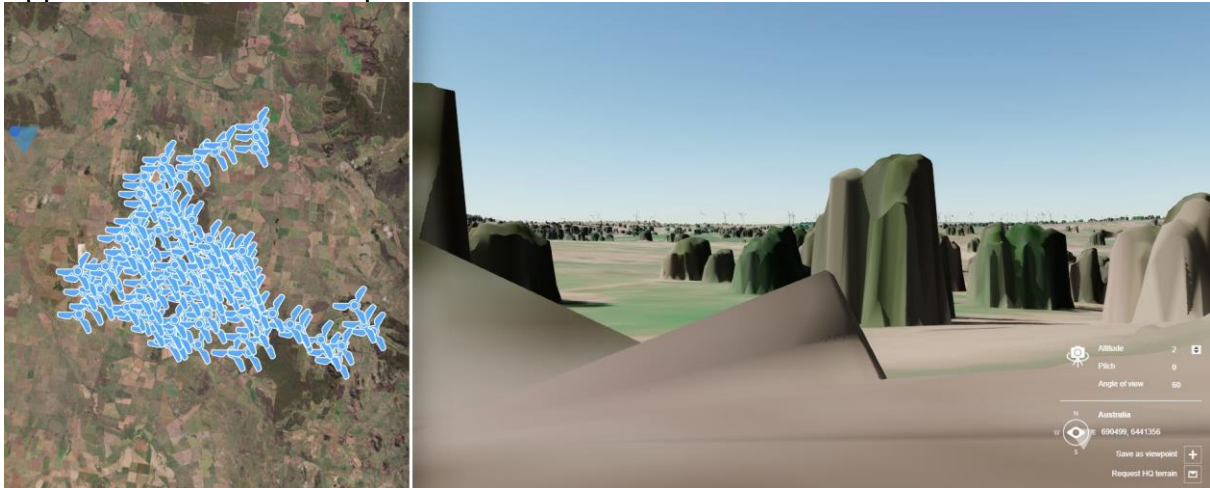
Visual impacts

The visual impacts from **our point of view** are significant although if you accepted Squadron’s interpretations they are bland in the extreme (see appendix 1a&b) These turbines, purported to be the tallest ever constructed on land, cover our Eastern Horizon almost entirely from 81° to 130°(see appendix 2) these turbines are 8km from our property and considered by Squadron to be of no visual impact although we can clearly see the much shorter turbines sited at another Wind “Farm” at Wellington **over 21km away.**

Appendix 1a. Squadron Energy’s interpretation of what our view would look like:



Appendix 1b also from Squadron:



Appendix 2. What our view would really look like:



Environmental Issues

Flooding

Our property is on Baragonumbel Creek, downstream from the site of the Spicer's Creek Wind "Farm" which covers the entire catchment area of the creek's headwaters.

We rely on this water source for our cattle

On the proposed site there will be 117 turbines and 165km of roads. The normal ground surface and its ability to absorb water will be destroyed, increasing run off and promoting flooding downstream.

Under “normal” circumstances we have occasionally had 2 metres of water over the riparian areas adjacent to the creek (appendix 3), flooding our bottom paddocks for weeks at a time and isolating cattle, the increased runoff created by this Wind “Farm’s” location will have a significant effect on our property and all the other properties along this creek and make “normal” a far more frequent occurrence.

Appendix 3:



Emergency Services Concerns

Fire Services

It is well known that transmission lines have caused major fires in Australia, in several cases with significant loss of life.

Added to this will be the well documented reality that wind turbines (Appendix 4) **and** the BESS (battery storage) systems (Appendix 5) also cause major fires. The turbines proposed for Spicer’s Creek are to be sited to our East to capture the prevailing winds and any fire caused by the turbines, batteries **or** the transmission lines will be driven **by** those winds directly towards our property.

Squadron states that they have allocated 10 staff to monitor the site although they have not deemed it necessary to divulge just how many will be on duty at any given time or what their protocols will be. They have also thoughtfully provided one 20,000 litre firefighting tank for all 117 turbines

Extract from National Guidelines on Electrical Safety for Emergency Personnel (EN A DOC 009-2006):

Flashovers

The combination of dense smoke and hot gases generated by a large fire directly under or near a high voltage powerline can create a conductive path that increases the potential for a 'flashover'.

A flashover is when electricity, especially at higher voltages, jumps across an air gap to create a conductive path. A flashover may occur between powerlines or from powerlines to the ground - this may be seen as a flash or heard as an explosion or loud cracking sound.

Under everyday conditions, the height of powerlines and their separations are designed to be entirely safe. However, a fire burning under or very close to the powerline can increase the distance that an electricity arc can jump.

Flashovers are potentially life threatening to a person standing in the near vicinity of the flashover (much like when lightning strikes the ground near a person). Flashovers can also cause damage to nearby equipment and the powerline, and can cause possible interruptions to power supply to homes and industry.

It must be noted that all local RFS units within the Central West REZ have neither the training **or** the equipment necessary to fight any of these fires:

“As fire fighters have discovered in recent years, lithium-ion battery fires are prone to reigniting. That's because the lithium salts in the battery are self-oxidizing, which means that they can't be "starved out" like a traditional fire.

*Because the lithium has an ignition point of 500°C, **the battery has to be cooled to a sub-ignition temperature.** That's why it took the fire fighters in Texas 30,000 gallons of water and 4 hours to extinguish the blaze*.”*

(*In Australian terms that's **29** RFS Category 1 Tankers, there are a mere **6** in the areas closest to Spicer's Creek!)

Appendix 4:



Appendix 5:



Fire Services also report the enormous danger of trying to extinguish fires with Aerial Tanker support in close proximity to high tension power lines in smoke filled environments.

Ambulance Services

Having served as the Senior Operations Officer, Western Operations Centre based in Dubbo **and** as an Intensive Care Paramedic for several decades I believe I have the experience necessary to report on the (lack of) Ambulance resources available to respond to **any** major incident in the Central West of NSW .

During the construction phase, of not only Spicers Creek Wind “Farm” but the **other** 22 major “renewable” projects within 30km, there will be several **thousand** workers engaged at any one time.

The population of Dunedoo 1021, Elong Elong 142, Goolma 95 and Gollan 109 (ABS Census 2021) are served by **one** two Officer Ambulance in daylight hours and one or two Officers at night.

The **absolute minimum response time** to the CWO REZ is 45 minutes **if** the Ambulance is available. The nearest backup is from Dubbo a further 55 minutes away.

Has there been any thought to increasing Ambulance Services to cover the massive increase of persons in the area?

And what of the local residents, do they suffer if “their” Ambulance is otherwise engaged in treating non-resident construction workers?

In summary

The “consultation” for this entire project has been abysmal, it is all well and good, from a corporate perspective at least to say people were “consulted” and that seems

to assuage the feelings of government bureaucrats so that they can tick that box while ramming these projects through.

The CWO REZ, like all the other “Renewable” Energy Zones, is an out of sight, out of mind project, only a few thousand residents, who don’t vote Labor or Green anyway and who cares what we think?

The lie that Spicer’s Creek’s pathetic output of 700MW will supply 395,000 homes with electricity should immediately out the project from that false statement alone.

700MW is the *maximum* output that this “Farm” will ever produce. Factually the very best output would only be 29% of that number. Are these enormous, massively expensive batteries supposed to take up the slack?

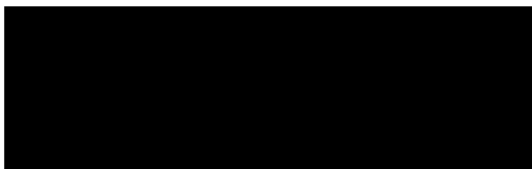
On our property (perfectly aligned with the Spicers Creek Wind “Farm’s” intermittent breezes) we have been off grid for over 13 years now with wind (5kW) and solar (12kW), we recently had 19 days where neither of these power sources provided the energy we needed.

Which meant our 20kWh battery bank did not get charged. If this was the CWO REZ that would mean **NO** power to those 370,000 homes. None!

Fortunately, **we** happen to have a large fossil fuel generator, so we managed to keep the lights on, the house warm and our freezers cold.

There is no provision for this to occur with any of these alleged “renewable” energy projects throughout the nation.

Yours Faithfully,



Rik Shepherd