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OBJECT

Submission No: 196555

Organisation:	<i>Uarbry Tongy Lane Alliance Inc</i>	Key issues: <i>Social and economic, Land use, Energy transition, Biodiversity, Visual, Traffic and Transport</i>
Location:	<i>New South Wales 2843</i>	
Submitter Type:	<i>a representative of a community group, non-government organisation, business or industry group</i>	
Attachment:		

Submission date: 9/4/2024 6:09:32 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to raise our concerns with this panel (from the Independent Planning Commission), the Department and Squadron.

We are looking forward to evidence that this consultation is genuine, and our concerns are not dismissed.

This IPC panel carries the responsibility of ensuring that our agricultural land and our regional communities are not destroyed by Squadron Energy and the other 50 odd industrial energy developments in our backyard.

As farmers we are required to adhere to certain standards to access different markets for our produce. We are regularly audited to ensure that we uphold those standards. Often the standards we must follow are set by the EU. We find that whatever is happening in European markets filters through to us within a year or two.

The EU is in the process of banning the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols in food contact materials. BPA research published in Australia recently by the Minderoo Foundation (a philanthropic organization led by Andrew and Nicola Forrest) and the Florey Institute (the largest brain research centre in the Southern Hemisphere) indicate that BPA exposure increases a number of health risks to babies, children and adults.

BPA is the main building block used to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins. It is used as a hardening agent in plastics and wind turbine blades.

Turbine blades erode, in constant weather on the tops of ridges likely they erode consistently. This is called leading edge erosion or blade rot. The composition of the turbine blades means they are currently not recyclable. Spicers creek will have 117 turbines, each with 3 blades, Total blades 351. The project site is 17,645 hectares.

Will the farmers in this 17,645 hectares find that their pastures, crops and water are contaminated by contact with BPA?

Arenâ€™t we meant to be reducing our consumption of BPA not increasing it?

Arenâ€™t we meant to be avoiding BPA given the extremely alarming evidence of harm to infants, children and adults.

Has anyone considered the harm to livestock, wildlife and the neighbours of this project?

Weâ€™ve seen the pictures of what washed up on Nantucket beaches from â€œliberatedâ€ blades.

At last count the Central West has over 1000 wind turbines in the planning portal, 3000 blades. All of these located in areas perfectly placed to spread BPA far and wide across productive farm land and water.



There is no end of life solution for turbine blades, there is currently no useful product that can be made from the materials extracted from obsolete turbine blades. Leading edge erosion impacts on performance so we are going to see a lot of obsolete turbine blades. Exactly how much BPA will be distributed over our environment?

Just 1 kg of BPA can contaminate 1 billion litres of water.

We want a robust study to quantify how much BPA will be released into the environment. Plus, as suggested by an earlier speaker at the IPC meeting, we want soil testing done regularly on the site and the neighbouring land to determine the level of BPA contamination.

In Squadron's response to submissions it did not confirm or deny that there is BPA in the blades but simply put the onus back on the NSW Government by stating that the NSW Government's position is that "wind turbine electricity does not involve the production of pollutants, emissions or waste that can have significant effects on our health or wellbeing". Squadron also state that BPA is still used in food containers, until when?

The EU are in the process of banning the use of BPA in food containers. The wind turbines will be insitu for 15 to 30 years or forever (depending on where the decommissioning funds are at??). The unsupported fact sheet published by the American Clean Power, as quoted in Squadron's response to submissions, does not represent a robust study. This is more like client bias. After all we all know with developer funded research you get what you pay for.

There has been no peer review study completed on the amount of BPA in turbine blades.

There has been no peer review study completed on the impact of airborne BPA on agricultural land, produce, communities and water.

There is currently legislation underway in the EU to ban BPA in food containers. Turbine blades are subject to much higher risk of degradation thus the release of the bound BPA.

When will our grain, meat and fibre be banned from EU markets given BPA contamination from leading edge erosion on turbine blades?

The whole premise for this development is that it will save 2,060,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. Has Squadron or the Department or this panel taken in consideration the SF6 "Sulfur hexafluoride. A highly dangerous substance, a synthetic green house gas, used in the manufacture of wind turbines and switch gear and is known to escape into the environment. SF6 is now banned by many other manufacturing sectors. Scientists say that wind turbines in Europe are the reasons for exceptionally high levels of SF6.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) SF6 is a climate killer. 26,087 times more harmful to climate than carbon dioxide. How much SF6 will be released into our atmosphere from Squadron's 117 turbines, substations and transmission gear?

How much SF6 will be released into our atmosphere from the 1000 odd wind turbines in our community plus the associated mega substations, and switching stations associated with the 50 odd industrial energy projects in the Central West?
