

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

10th February 2011

RE: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, two young children and myself reside in the small, rural community of Beetaloo Valley (South Australia), which is subject to the proposed Collaby Hill Wind Farm development. The following points are my primary concerns about the afore mentioned development and wind farms in general.

I am an ardent admirer of the natural environment and I support most initiatives that effectively reduce our global footprint (physical as well as carbon). However at this stage of proceedings I am yet to be convinced of the effectiveness of wind farm power generation as an alternative to fossil fuel based power generation.

All current wind farms suffer the same flaw of not being able to produce baseline power generation under all conditions, which essentially means that the existing fossil fuel based power generators must remain operating at their current capacities to cover any shortfalls in power generation that the wind farms may experience in the process of operating under normal conditions.

This means that we have effectively increased our global environmental footprint, because we cannot decommission any of the fossil fuel power generators and we have created the addition of the wind farms which are resource intensive in their construction and are intrinsically destructive to their localised environment.

Wind farms cannot be considered as a baseload power generating alternative, until there have been adequate technological improvements in the large scale - long term storage of electricity. If there are no usable storage technologies developed in the near future then wind power can only be realistically classed as a panacea (looks nice but does nothing) to our current problems of high carbon pollution.

Also, if the establishment of wind farms was such a high priority, in respect to saving the environment, then Wind Farm Companies and Planning Authorities would be attempting to place sites in remote locations, of accepted low environmental significance, many kilometres from existing residences and in areas with a low likelihood of future residential development, where there will be little possibility of recording injurious affects to human health and presumably no delays to their establishment due to protest.

Instead Wind Farm Companies are presently attempting to concentrate their sites in places that will bring them the greatest return of profit, close to existing power grids but also bringing themselves into direct contact with existing residences and isolated and extremely sensitive pockets of remnant vegetation.

Planning Authorities should have the foresight to preclude large tracts of land to any future Wind Farm proposals, thereby forcing Wind Farm companies into zones that they are currently reticent to site their generators in.

I am very concerned by the real possibility of suffering a decline in valuation of our property due to the proposed Collaby Hill Wind Farm development (the proximity of some proposed towers are approx. 700m. from our residence). Our property easily represents the single biggest investment that we own and subsequently we do not wish to be subjugated to any uncompensated devaluation. We are located within a 20 minute drive to a significant regional South Australian city (Pt. Pirie), and as such our residence will remain an attractive proposition for sale independent of most rural housing market trends.

Some of the landowners that have consented to having the Collaby Hill wind towers constructed on their land, do not reside in Beetaloo Valley or its immediate surrounds (some do not even reside in this region). Although I recognize that they can conduct their businesses in any manner that they see fit and I do not intend to attack them personally, I am worried that decisions have been made that will directly affect the health and wellbeing of my family, by people who will not be subjecting themselves or their own families to any adverse effects generated by the wind farm development.

There are published reports of high numbers of bat deaths attributed to wind farms and I hope that there have been sufficient studies undertaken by bodies such as the Department for Natural Environment and Resources (DENR) to accurately assess the direct impact of wind farms on local bat populations. I also feel that there should be more rigorous and comprehensive studies undertaken at each wind farm site (both existing and proposed) investigating all impacts on the natural environment.

Having attended public meetings, in Laura and Pt. Pirie, held specifically to discuss the potential impacts of the proposed Collaby Hill wind farm project, I came away with the distinct impression that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) had neither the funding nor the political will to conduct exhaustive monitoring of residences adjacent to existing wind farm projects who lodge official complaints about excessive noise and associated health problems.

A senior representative of the EPA, present at the Pt. Pirie meeting, said quite candidly to me in private discussions that “ the maximum time frame that the EPA will undertake noise monitoring of residences complaining of problems associated with wind farms, is two weeks. Usually monitoring is only conducted over 2 or 3 days, because it is an expensive exercise.” Therefore the likelihood of recording periods of turbine operation that exceed the currently allowable noise limits is limited.

This does not fill me with confidence that, in the event of my family being subjected to any adverse effects directly linked to the Collaby Hill wind farm, we will have our complaints investigated in a rigorous and satisfactory manner by the EPA, who are the only body charged with safeguarding us and the environment from injurious practices of industry. This would then suggest that we would have to engage professionals capable of investigating any adverse effects using our own personal funds. This would appear to be a difficult exercise to undertake given that it is too expensive for the EPA to conduct long term monitoring and analysis of wind farms.

At the Pt. Pirie and Laura public meetings, we heard examples of complaints from people residing in close proximity to existing wind farms. Many of the complaints were directly related to their belief that individual or clustered wind towers were sited dangerously close to their residences (in some cases clusters were closer than 1km. from residences). The majority of these householders expressed their anger and dismay at what they described as poor and inadequate modelling of the

potential impacts of their respective wind farm projects during the development application stage.

I am therefore worried about the apparent lack of effectiveness of the current modelling tools used to project possible environmental and health problems created by proposed wind farms. Planning Authorities would be best suited by erring on the side of caution, perhaps by conducting surveys of existing wind farms and developing setback protocols that reflect the real life experiences of residents.

An example of this may be that a zone of exclusion of wind towers may be observed around existing or proposed residences of at least 2km., if a large majority of residents suffering the adverse affects of wind farms are sited within 2 km. of existing towers and those residents sited further than 2km. suffer no ill affects.

In the absence of strong planning, research or formal investigations, landholders are being asked by default to play the role of a moral and social planning authority. When approached by a wind farm developer a landholder should be in the position of having no qualms about the potential impact on their own lives and that of their neighbours, community or environment.

Instead landholders cannot be confident about the potential for adverse affects that may be created by wind farms due to a distinct and regrettable lack of comprehensive and peer reviewed studies into all aspects of their siting, construction and continual use into the future.

Thankyou for providing the arena to convey my concerns. I have also attached a copy of correspondence to the wind developer and their response, for your further information.

Regards

Wes Crisp - B.App.Sc.(Nat.Res.Mgmt.)

Ric Darley
Origin Energy
GPO Box 1097
ADELAIDE SA 5001

30th August 2010

RE: COLLABY HILL/BEETALOO VALLEY WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT

Dear Mr Darley,

Further to discussions with Origin Energy representatives (Margaret-Anne Williams 18/08/10; David Gladwin/Yvette Reed 30/03/10) and in light of increasing inconsistency in the information provided to the community about the proposed Collaby Hill windfarm, we are seeking clarification from Origin Energy on the following issues:

1. Number of Turbines

In its early consultation with the community (2008 Crystal Brook show), approximately 30 wind turbines were proposed by Origin Energy. At the meeting of Beetaloo Valley residents (30/03/10), some 92 turbines over the same area were identified on a map provided by company representatives. Internet research has recently put this figure now at around 70.ⁱ

We are seeking confirmation of the number of turbines proposed for this current development and the total expected number of turbines for future expansions/stages of the development.

2. Location of Turbines

It is understood that the windfarm is proposed to extend from just north of Crystal Brook through to the boundary of the Beetaloo Reservoir, however clarification is sought as to whether the turbines will be confined to the ridgeline, or extend into Beetaloo Valley on hill spurs and if so, where this is to occur.

3. Type of Turbine

At the meeting of Beetaloo Valley residents on 30/03/10 Origin representatives assured those present that the development will be utilising the most modern German or Swiss designed wind turbine technologies to minimise community impact.

At a subsequent meeting with residents (23/06/10), Origin admitted that the development will in fact now utilise the same Indian built technology installed at Hallett, which Origin representatives themselves had previously admitted has a higher noise, nuisance and health impact.

Clarification is sought regarding the type of turbine proposed for use in the Collaby Hill windfarm and the noise, health and nuisance impacts associated with this model.

4. Proximity to Dwellings

Origin representatives have advised Beetaloo residents (30/03/10) that turbines will not be constructed closer to 1km from dwellings, in line with company policy. However we were informed by Origin that this distance is measured over the ground, rather than as a direct line of sight from turbine to dwelling. In considering the geography of the proposed windfarm layout on the map provided by Origin representatives at this meeting, turbines were located far closer to homes than the 1km 'buffer' and at a higher risk from direct noise and infrasound impact.

Clarification is sought regarding Origin Energy's policy in relation to turbine proximity to dwellings and the company's rationale for not using a line of sight distance and not engaging a larger buffer distance, consistent with a growing national and international trend that recognizes noise, nuisance and health issues.^{ii iii}

5. Further Stages of Project Expansion

It is noted that many windfarms are constructed in stages, each being considered as a distinctive project that may not necessarily give consideration to cumulative impacts arising from this incremental development.

We are seeking clarification on the intent by Origin Energy to expand the current Collaby Hill proposal in the future and the approximate footprint of any future stages of development individually and as a collective, overall project.

6. Land Devaluation and Property Acquisition Compensation Policy

Clarification is sought on Origin Energy's policy for compensating near neighbours to the proposed Collaby Hill windfarm who may wish to sell their properties, in light of an expected reduction in land value, as demonstrated at windfarm developments at Toora - South Gippsland in Victoria, Windy Hill in Queensland's Atherton Tablelands and Taralga windfarm near Goulburn in New South Wales, and which are also consistent with international trends as evidenced across the United Kingdom, Canada and United States^{iv}.

In addition, we are seeking clarity around Origin's policy regarding purchase of properties affected by the windfarm in the event that the owners need to abandon their homes due to adverse noise or health impacts, as experienced at Taralga (NSW)^v and Waubra (Vic) and in recognition of compensation awarded to home purchaser when vendors fail to disclose the development of a windfarm, for example pursuant to the case in Marton Cumbria, United Kingdom.^{vi}

7. Noise

Clarification is sought regarding the findings of Origin Energy's baseline (pre-construction) monitoring of background noise.

We are not aware of any near neighbours who have baseline noise monitoring undertaken by Origin Energy and request that such monitoring be undertaken at a maximum number of near neighbour dwellings, including our residence.

Whilst it is understood that Origin will be required to comply with the South Australian Environment Protection Authority Noise Guidelines, it is our view that any level of persistent windfarm noise above the background is not acceptable.

Our residence has no air conditioning and we rely on cross-breezes through open windows during summer. The extremely low background noise levels and sound carrying features of the local topography need to be considered in this regard and we seek clarification on the expected impact.

We are also seeking your clarification regarding Origin Energy's expected program of ongoing noise monitoring post construction, process for complaint handling and dispute resolution in the event noise does cause nuisance or ill-effect. The company's views on the New Zealand 2010 noise standards (NZS6808:2010) as a higher benchmark to those currently used by the South Australian EPA would also be appreciated.

8. Health Impacts

The growing number of consistent health-related symptoms attributed globally to windfarms^{vii} including Australia (ie Taralga, Waubra^{viii}, Hallett^{ix}) is of concern primarily because, whilst it is acknowledged there has been little by way of independent scientific studies to confirm the validity of these claims - there has equally been no independent studies to disprove it.

It is our view that the onus should be on Origin Energy, as the developer, to provide independent, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that the proposed Collaby Hill windfarm will not negatively impact on the health and welfare of near neighbours, and we seek your assurances that this work will be undertaken prior to seeking approval for construction.

9. Visual Amenity

By their very nature, windfarms have a significant impact on the visual amenity of an area.

The natural setting of Beetaloo Valley was a key attraction in our decision to live in the area. We are yet to be convinced that a windfarm development will enhance this.

At the meeting of residents (30/03/10) Origin Energy representatives indicated a visual impact assessment and photomontage of the development from affected residences and key viewpoints (for example nearby townships (Crystal Brook, Port Pirie), National Highway One and the Heysen Trail) would be provided.

We are seeking clarification on the expected timing of this impact assessment and the viewpoints from which this will be projected, including the cumulative visual impact across the landscape from adjacent windfarm developments proposed/constructed in the region.

10. Zoning Incompatibility

As you may be aware, much of the proposed windfarm development falls within the 'Ranges Zone' of the Port Pirie and Northern Areas Councils.

The primary objective of this zone is to '*preserve the natural character, scenic, scientific, and heritage features of the Flinders Ranges*' - an objective that has been one of the main attractions for many (non-farming) residents to the area, including us.

A large scale, highly visual, industrial development such as a windfarm is completely contrary to the zoning.

Clarification is sought from Origin Energy regarding the rationale for proposing a windfarm specifically in this area, given it is incongruity with the primary intent of the zoning.

11. Native Vegetation and Fauna

Clarification is sought from Origin regarding the level and type of native vegetation that will be cleared as part of the proposed windfarm construction and the status of any biodiversity surveys, including referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act that are being undertaken as part of the proposal.

In addition, the level of 'cut and fill' of ridges/gullies that is prevalent during construction of many windfarms is also sought, along with likely locations along Collaby Hill/Beetaloo Valley that this will occur.

12. Construction Impacts

Clarification is sought regarding the expected increase in construction and long term maintenance traffic in and around the Beetaloo Valley area as a result of the windfarm development and an analysis of likely damage, traffic noise and dust on our local thoroughfares.

The amount and source of water likely to be required during construction and for ongoing maintenance of the windfarm is also unclear and your advice on this matter appreciated.

13. Bushfire Risk

Beetaloo Valley is a high fire risk area.

With turbines expected to follow the western ridge from Crystal Brook to the Beetaloo Reservoir, the majority of residences adjacent the proposed windfarm are located 'downwind' from turbines and north-westerly winds which are most commonly experienced during extreme and catastrophic fire days.

Advice from Origin Energy in relation to bushfire mitigation, near neighbour bushfire action (and evacuation) planning, along with consultation with the Country Fire Service in relation to the proposed windfarm development, is sought.

14. Blade Glint & Shadow Flicker

Advice in relation to the expected level of shadow flicker and blade glint impacts from the windfarm development, particularly in the late afternoon with the length of shadows into Beetaloo Valley, including near neighbour residences and along the main thoroughfare.

15. Red Aviation Lights

Origin representatives (resident meeting 30/03/10) undertook to investigate the need for red, flashing aviation lighting on the proposed windfarm development. No further advice has been forthcoming on this issue and clarification is sought.

16. Interference with Telecommunications Equipment

Advice is sought regarding the likely interference residents can expect with television reception, internet connectivity (wireless), mobile telephone coverage and other electronic equipment as a result of the windfarm construction, taking into account the tenuous nature of existing coverage, which already appears highly sensitive to any external influences (ie wind, weather, electrical interference).

To that end we would appreciate clarification on any mitigation strategies Origin Energy will be implementing to remedy any identified interference.

17. Consultation and Timeframe for Development Application

Advice from Origin is sought regarding the expected timeframe for submission of a formal Development Application to the relevant planning authorities and opportunities for input and consultation with near neighbours on the proposal.

In closing - as a 'near neighbour' of the proposed Collaby Hill windfarm, we have a high level of trepidation about the development on many accounts, and seek your earliest assurances to the concerns raised above so we can make an informed decision.

Yours sincerely

Wes

Cc: Northern Areas Council, Port Pirie Regional Council

Dear Mr Crisp

Thank you for your August 30 letter to Ric Darley. I am replying on Ric's behalf. My apologies from both of us for the time this response has taken.

Wes, I believe we introduced ourselves at the meeting in Port Pirie?

You have raised a considerable number of questions in your letter and I will endeavour to answer them, bearing in mind that this proposal is really at an early stage and much of the information you and others seek responses to are still unknown. Therefore it isn't possible to provide all the information and the detail you seek.

1. & 2. Number, location of turbines

Origin has yet to finalise our site layout so we cannot yet tell you the location of turbines. This layout will be influenced by current studies and consultants' feedback. It will be based on the data we have obtained from the four wind monitoring towers we have installed, community feedback, and social and environmental impact studies.

Equally we have not yet established the likely number of turbines and this, too, will be determined once all the impact studies are completed.

3. Type of turbine

At this early stage we have not made any decisions about what equipment we will use. A range of manufacturers' equipment is being considered and, among these, Suzlon equipment will be assessed for its suitability, merits and shortcomings, as will a range of alternative equipment.

In response to your query about the impact of turbines on the health of people living close by wind turbines Origin is guided on this issue by government regulation. We also take guidance from the report from Australia's peak health research body, the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) that there is no credible published scientific evidence to support adverse effects of wind turbines on health.

4. Proximity to dwellings

You raise the matter of proximity to dwellings, and we know that is a something that is of interest to many of your neighbours as well.

Origin seldom places turbines closer than one kilometre from properties, a distance which meets government regulations and is based on measurements. However, as previously mentioned, the social and environmental assessment studies are not yet complete. These assessments encompass potential impacts to provide a complete environmental assessment. This is a more encompassing and scientifically sound approach than an arbitrary stipulation of specific distances from wind turbines. Any arbitrary distance would be an unscientific basis for decision-making. These measurements are undertaken by our acoustic consultants using standard methodology.

The 'buffer distance' trend you refer to appears to be a perception in some parts of the community, but it is not an accurate perception. Our understanding is that Australia has a more consistent stance on environmental assessments than Europe.

5. Further plans

You seek clarification on whether Origin's intends to expand the proposed wind farm. As stated above, and at the Port Pirie meeting, this proposal itself is at an early stage. Origin is not considering any expansion of the Collaby Hill proposal and the exact footprint of the proposal under discussion has not been determined. Should the proposal progress the Development Application process will take into account cumulative impact.

6. Land devaluation and property acquisition compensation policy

Media reports and internet sources can be misleading. We have found a 2005 report on a website opposing wind energy quoting one Valuer who believes Taralga land prices to have been affected *even before* construction of the wind farm. This seems to be a subjective belief based on hearsay. There is no evidence from Taralga about land prices after construction because the wind farm is still in the planning stage. We have found one reference on this same website to a house which the owners wish to sell, but for which they cannot find a buyer. Of course, a variety of factors affect the property market and the selling value of individual houses on the market, including the economic climate.

We would like to refer you to the most credible evidence available, which finds no such impact on neighbouring properties. In August 2009 a report prepared for the NSW Valuer General stated: "The main finding was that the wind farms do not appear to have negatively affected property values in most cases." (Executive summary) Anecdotal evidence in reference to land sales near wind farms suggests that property values remain largely unchanged by wind farm installations. In some instances prices for properties have even increased (e.g. Esperance, WA). Studies in the USA and Denmark have found there is little to suggest that wind farms impact negatively on the value of neighbouring properties.

The social and environmental assessment studies Origin has underway are being undertaken to ensure the wind project fits into the existing landscape and community with minimal disruption. Based on these studies, a number of commitments to mitigate or avoid impacts will be made by Origin. Origin will ensure it meets these commitments and any other regulatory requirement imposed by regulators.

7. Noise

Measurements of background sound in the Beetaloo Valley have been undertaken; these results show that the level is less than 30dBA, the floor of the EPA regulations. We accept that the entire Beetaloo Valley is a quiet location and this floor would be applied to all locations within the Beetaloo Valley.

Your expressed view is that any level of persistent wind farm noise above the background level is not acceptable. We operate under strict standards and state-based regulations for noise from wind farms in Australia. All of Origin's projects will comply with these high standards and we cannot comment on NZ standards. In South Australia, appropriate South Australian standards apply.

Origin does not have a policy around the purchase of properties near wind farms.

8. Health impacts

Many people raise the issue of health, which may have been brought to their attention by media reports and is based on anecdotal evidence. We will be guided by the independent NHMRC which is Australia's leading expert body promoting the development and maintenance of public and individual health standards and which recently issued a Public Statement on the issue which said, amongst other things:

'... there is no published scientific evidence to support adverse effects of wind turbines on health'. A full evidence review is available at www.nhmrc.gov.au

The planning process ensures that noise from all turbines is determined before the wind farm is built to ensure it is within the acceptable range.

Origin is not a health organisation and we cannot agree with you that the onus should be on Origin as the developer to provide independent peer-reviewed, scientific evidence about health impacts. Any study funded by Origin would not be perceived as independent, no matter how rigorous. It is appropriate that Australia's most credible peak health body should be charged with making such assessments.

9. Visual amenity

The visual amenity of wind farms is a subjective matter. Some people consider wind farms to be an interesting addition to the landscape.

We will assess the visual impact of the wind farm and mitigate the significant impacts using landscaping measures such as screening. The State planning process considers a wide range of issues including visual and landscape amenity for any proposed wind farm, and photomontages and visual assessment is taken from a number of key viewpoints as well as nearby residences.

Some visual assessment studies and photomontages have been undertaken including near Crystal Brook, Port Pirie and from Highway One. While we have not yet established the timing and location of additional visual impact assessments or photomontages more may yet be done. This information would become part of the DA process and at that point available for public scrutiny.

Neighbouring landowners who are not hosting turbines do not usually receive payment or compensation. However, we will consult with neighbouring landowners regarding visual and landscape screening options to minimise the impact of the turbines on the visual amenity at their dwellings.

10. Zoning incompatibility

Concerning your question about the 'Ranges' Zone of the Port Pirie Regional and Northern Areas Councils: Zoning is a matter that will be considered as part of the Development Application. The rationale for proposing a wind farm in this location is that this location has excellent wind resources. Origin will comply with all regulations imposed by both the State Government and councils, and compliance requirements form part of the Development Application process.

11. Native vegetation and fauna

Environmental Assessment studies being conducted include Flora & Fauna/Biodiversity studies. The information you request will be available as part of the Development Application. You also refer to "cut and fill". This area has relatively gentle slopes and we anticipate very little need to cut and fill in order to make the roads suitable for equipment transports. These relatively gentle slopes also add to the locale's suitability as a location for a wind farm.

12. Construction impacts

Safety will always be the first principle in any Origin activity, both in terms of our employees and the communities in which we are involved. We work closely with all local government and other regulatory authorities to ensure that all safety measures are observed and indeed we will also pursue additional safety initiatives, such as implementing reduced road speed limits.

We appreciate your legitimate interest in construction impacts, and we can reassure you that Origin has successfully managed construction impacts in close cooperation with local government at its Cullerin Range wind farm in NSW.

A preliminary traffic management plan will be prepared and submitted as part of our Development Approval. This plan will be developed in consultation with the council and the Transport SA (DTEI). The local road network has the capacity to accommodate the additional construction traffic.

We will actively engage with the local community about any traffic issues prior to construction to ensure that disruptions are minimised and all issues, such as safety, school bus routes, access points and car parking are addressed. A detailed traffic management plan will be

prepared after Development Approval. We will be involving TransportSA and the local council in developing this plan, which must be signed off by all parties before construction can begin.

You also ask us to advise on water usage during construction and ongoing maintenance of the wind farm. As with any infrastructure project, a wind farm requires some amount of water during construction. Wind farms use water for concrete batching when this activity is carried out on site, for site civil works (ie dust suppression) and for site amenity buildings. There has been no decision about where the water will be sourced at this stage, and when this decision is made it will form part of the development application. This will occur after consultation with the relevant authorities and council about water use during the construction stage and the ongoing running of the wind farm. When the wind farm is operational, a minimal amount of water will be required. This amount will be similar to the amount a domestic house requires, to be used for human activities such as tea-making, dish-washing and ablutions.

13. Bushfire risk

We listened with interest to the CFS's response to questions about fire fighting and fire risk at the recent meeting in Port Pirie. The CFS has determined that the fire risk associated with wind turbines is low. A great deal of work goes into ensuring that the risk of fire on a wind farm is kept to a minimum, and we will be working closely and co-operatively with the CFS, accepting their assessment of the risk of the Beetaloo Valley in particular. We would point out that the risk posed by wind farms is less than the risk posed by some motor vehicles and agricultural machinery.

The risk of fire at a wind farm is very low because all flammable components in turbines are located well above the ground while all high-voltage connections are safely housed underground.

In rural areas, electricity-related fires are most likely to result from lightning. All wind turbines are equipped with comprehensive lightning protection systems which safely transfer high voltages and currents to the ground.

There is emergency equipment located in both the tower and the nacelle of every turbine. In addition, all turbines have a sophisticated early warning system which notifies the full time maintenance and service manager of any problems immediately.

Fires associated with wind turbines are fought in the same way as for any high voltage electrical infrastructure. Water is not used on the facility itself, but rather the fires are contained around the base and surrounds of the turbine using traditional methods.

14. Blade glint and shadow flicker

Blade glint and shadow flicker are both assessed and taken into account as part of the Development Consent Application process.

15. Red aviation lights

Our technical consultants have yet to determine whether obstacle lighting is necessary. Prior to development, we will need CASA's approval and they will decide on whether lights are required. Origin will not light more turbines than required for aviation safety. Information about lighting and aviation safety will form part of the assessment process.

16. Interference with telecommunications equipment

Background monitoring will be done to measure the existing levels of reception prior to construction of the wind farm. Once the project is built we will monitor TV, radio or mobile communications and remedy entirely any situations that arise on a case by case basis. This is normal practice at wind farms.

17. Consultation and timeframe for development application

We expect to submit a Development Application in early 2011. We have already, as you know, invited and received input from near neighbours, and indeed your letter and this reply are an example of this. The normal planning opportunities for input will occur once the Development Application has been lodged.

The Environmental Assessment studies for this proposal are being undertaken to ensure a complete project assessment is undertaken. The final layout and management of the proposal will reflect the recommendations highlighted from these Environmental Application studies. We are currently anticipating that we will submit a formal Development Application early in 2011 and as part of that process other parties, including neighbouring landowners, will be able to make their views known.

We appreciate that you are interested in information about the proposal and have endeavoured to answer your questions thoroughly. At this early stage, with studies still underway, some answers are not yet available. We anticipate that should we proceed to the DA we will be in a position to provide you with some of the information that isn't yet available.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Weaver

cc:

The CEO, Northern Areas Council
The CEO, Port Pirie Council
The Member for Frome, the Honourable Geoff Brock

ⁱ <http://ramblingsdc.net/Australia/WindSA.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.independentweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/myponga-residents-celebrate-wind-farm-win/1621343.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://vic.liberal.org.au/News/MediaReleases/tabid/159/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1917/categoryId/1/NSW-GREENS-BACKING-FOR-VIC-COALITIONS-WIND-FARM-SETBACKS.aspx>

^{iv} http://www.aandc.org/research/wind_pec_present.html ; <http://www.ckwag.org/>;
<http://fw.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/wind-farms-change-land-values/1359548.aspx?storypage=3>

^v http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/LE_Court_Reporter_07_17.pdf

^{vi} <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/property/propertyadvice/propertymarket/3321935/An-ill-wind-blowing.html>

^{vii} <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1452529/Wind-farms-make-people-sick-who-live-up-to-a-mile-away.html>;
<http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/be-concerned-about-health-effects-from-wind-turbine-effects/>;
<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/>

^{viii} <http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2010/02/19/2825235.htm>

^{ix} <http://sj.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/hallett-appeals-wind-farm-proposal/1761397.aspx?storypage=1>