

Submission re Capital 11 Windfarm.
Application No M P 10_0135

I object to the project for the following reasons:

1. Loss of visual amenity.

The existing wind turbines have significantly damaged my enjoyment of the landscape from my home. My home was built in this location to take advantage of the beautiful panoramic views of Lake George and the surrounding hillsides. This proposal will completely destroy that view and my sense of belonging to this place. A beautiful rural setting has been altered to an industrial site. The value of my home was enhanced by the beautiful views of Lake George and the surrounding hills; at the last valuation prior to Windfarm construction, the valuer stated that much of the value of my home came from the views.

2 Shadow Flicker.

During winter when the sun sets behind the turbines I suffer from significant shadow flicker in every part of my house; it causes the whole house to "shudder" with light, the only respite is in bed with my head under a pillow.

This concern was raised by me in my submission to Capital Windfarm 1 and was ignored. I've spoken to Neville Osborne of the NSW Planning Department several times, who has sent me back to the developer. Up to the present time no action has been taken. As these new turbines will extend the period of shadow flicker, I am greatly concerned about my ability to continue to live in my house; I can't go outdoors or sit in my house while the shadow flicker is occurring.

3 Noise.

Noise from the existing Windfarm causes me extreme discomfort both in the daytime and particularly at night. Often, consecutive nights of disrupted sleep causes me stress and depression. This can be verified by my Doctor. Again I have spoken with Neville Osborne who has sent me to the developer. On two occasions sound monitoring was carried out but no feedback or action has been taken by the developer. Requests for information and action have been fobbed off by the developer's claims that the noise problem is still under review. I have no confidence that my concerns re noise from the proposed turbines will be listened to. Infigen is currently developing the Woodlawn Windfarm behind my property. The placement of turbines seems to have been changed from the original approval bringing the turbines closer to my home which means I will be virtually surrounded by noise and shadow flicker.

4 Silting in my creek.

Since the construction of the capital Windfarm I have noticed considerable silting of the creek which runs through my property. There was no evidence of silting prior to construction. This creek is a chain of ponds and is a tributary of Taylor's Creek which feeds into Lake George.

5 Flora and Fauna

As in my submission to Capital Windfarm 1 I am extremely concerned for the safety of flora and fauna. As my property comprises a significant grassland, I know that there are a number of species of vulnerable and endangered species present, which are surely not confined to within the boundaries of my property. Brown Falcons which have nested continuously on my property have disappeared. Lake George provides an important refuge habitat for wetland birds at times of low water in other inland water bodies. I have with 2 members of the Canberra Ornithologists been present at a number of bird surveys on the lake shore. I am very concerned about water birds and their migration movements to and from the Lake, particularly at night and in foggy conditions. Many water birds move at night which increases the likelihood of collision with turbine blades. More turbines close to the lakeshore will make it much more difficult for large, heavy water birds to avoid the turbines. I have observed large flocks of birds turning away from the turbines on Groses Hill to my north, more turbines will leave much less room for them to move. The danger to Birds of Prey and their loss of habitat in the area are also of great concern to me, as this has a knock on effect of removing the top predators which impacts on the whole ecological system of the region.

6 Harassment.

During the construction of the present windfarm I was subjected to harassment. I believe that because I had stated my concerns about bird strike, I had a number of dead birds left in my gateway. When I spoke to a member of the construction team about my concerns for Brown Falcons, one was killed and left on the road. At night, over several months, my house was spotlighted, I believe this was done to intimidate and frighten me. I was frightened of driving down Taylor's Creek Road, many times I had to get off the road to avoid a head on collision with vehicles being driven to fast and recklessly, even after repeated assurances that this would stop.

7 Aboriginal Heritage.

With what I already know of this developer's seeming lack of concern for the environment, I doubt they can properly safeguard indigenous sites and artefacts present on the lakeshore.

8 Lack of consultation.

To the present time, consultation has consisted of one meeting with me in my home, last October where I was promised information which has not yet arrived. At that meeting the project manager could not tell me the location of the turbines or what construction methods would be used as these were still being reviewed. The company has not contacted me since that day, when I raised all the concerns contained in this submission.

Sue Corrigan