

up unmarked and unknown until hopefully spotted by pilots during pre-application inspections.

More comprehensive safeguards must include a mandatory national system of communication of the position of all wind monitoring towers and the inclusion of this on a national database accessible by low level pilots.

This is a very real issue for topdressing and firebombing operations - as wind monitoring increases, so does the threat to legal aviation activities.

Economic Impacts

Safety is not the only consideration that is imposing additional risk and consequences on the aerial application industry.

The placement of wind farms in areas of highly productive agricultural land is leading to reductions in treatment areas of aerial application companies with no compensation for this externalization of costs by wind farm developers.

For example, placement of a wind farm may affect flight lines and application height or even whether the application can be conducted at all - leading directly to either an increase in cost or a reduction in income - and sometimes both - for aerial application operators.

AAAA's submission to the Commonwealth Inquiry into Safeguards at Airports (**Attachment A**) makes a number of points regarding land planning issues that are equally relevant to the development of wind farms regardless of whether they are near airports or in agricultural land that may be treated by air.

In particular, AAAA is concerned that not enough consideration is being given through the State planning approval processes to the impacts of windfarms on productive agricultural land and the aerial application industry, remembering that it may not only be the land footprint where the windfarm is sited, but also land surrounding that for some kilometers where aircraft may have to maneuver to conduct aerial application.

At the very least, windfarm developers should be required to pay compensation to aerial applicators where it can be reasonable established that there will be an economic impact imposed on the aerial application company by the wind farm developer.

Further information

If you require any further information or would like AAAA to expand on or further explain any of the issues raised in this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the Association's CEO, Mr Phil Hurst on 02 6241 2100 or email: phil@aerialag.com.au. Similarly, if it would be of assistance, AAAA would be happy to appear at the public hearing on the 9th September.

Yours sincerely

Phil Hurst
CEO - AAAA