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SHIRE OF KOJONUP					
FILE:	DB.BDA.8				
CEO	MCS	MRCS	WM	COPO	PB
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BARRULE GRAZING CO
RMB 474
KOJONUP
6395

10/01/11

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SUBMISSION RE PROPOSED FLAT ROCKS WIND FARM

To Whom It May Concern: Shire of Kojonup

We the undersigned would like to register our opposition to the proposed Wind Farm at Flat Rocks. We reside on Potts Road, within 5 km of the proposed site. We were initially ambivalent about the project, but having researched the subject further, have come to the conclusion that it is not a suitable development for our district.

Our reasons for this conclusion are as follows;

1. Health Concerns for us and our neighbours.

Our research has alerted us to the fact that wind turbines, especially on the scale that is proposed for Flat Rocks, can cause health problems in people who reside in their area of influence. Evidently the low frequency infrasound emitted by the turbines can cause problems within the vestibular apparatus of the ear. This causing detrimental health effects such as panic attacks, tinnitus, vertigo, sleep deprivation and increased heart rate. Given that some of the turbines proposed are to be within 800m of some houses and the number of turbines proposed, presumably multiplying the adverse effects, we feel the risk to the health of the population surrounding the turbines is too great. Given the anecdotal evidence coming from Victorian and New Zealand farmers, living in close proximity to wind farms it is quite alarming that the authorities are not listening.

Also, no research has been done to date, that we can find, but one wonders what adverse effects could there be on the food production animal population, that resides within the influence of the turbines. What production losses are likely? More research needs to be done before any more large wind farms are built.

2. Our Livelihood

We, although being a close neighbour of the proposed installations, will gain no benefit from their existence. Can Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd guarantee that our farm will not be devalued by having the turbines adjacent to our property? Our research indicates to us that this is a distinct possibility. If this does eventuate it would reduce our ability to operate our business in a profitable manner. Not an equitable state of affairs in our opinion.

2. Environmental. We are also concerned for the fauna from the Nogapitchup Swamp and Graham's Well Reserve, both sit right in the centre between two of the blocks proposed for the wind farm. These reserves, far from being fragmented as the development application states, link up (especially for the birds) to the various creek lines and farm remnants, fenced off over the years

by local Landcare groups. Providing corridors that the development application says don't exist. These reserves are in fact valuable refuges, within the surrounding farm landscape. Our farm is currently being assessed for Carnaby's cockatoo nesting sites and I am told these birds forage up to ten Km from the nest which places both of these reserves well within range.

3. Visual Pollution. We are also troubled by the number and height of the proposed turbines. If built they will form an arc around our farm and our North, Eastern and Southern skylines will be interrupted with turbines and the aircraft warning beacons at night. We do not feel our rural out look should be impinged in this way. We do not wish to live in an industrial landscape.

4. Aircraft Issues. In the Moonies Hill Energy development application, they have only discussed commercial and defence aircraft and lighting of the towers. No mention was made as to the safety issues for Crop dusters and wether we would still be able to access aircraft to fertilize or spray our crops or pastures if needed.

5. Socioeconomics. Our research has also brought to light the inefficiency of wind turbines and of the necessity of back up fossil fuel power sources such as very expensive gas turbines. This would seem to us to negate the "Green Energy" credentials of such an installation.
It is our contention that a biomass Energy plant would be a better fit for our district, if a large scale energy plant is required at all. A biomass plant would create employment opportunities in the construction phase, just as a wind farm would. But a biomass plant would have greater on going, district wide social and economic benefits, due to providing employment opportunities at the plant as well as providing diversified income for the farmers of the district that would provide the biomass to run the plant (wether in the form of oil Mallee trees, or stubble residues). We ourselves already have oil Mallee trees planted on our farm, as part of our environmental program. These trees provide on going environmental benefits in the form of windbreaks, waterlogging mitigation, and carbon sequestration. As such biomass plantings on a district scale would have a positive environmental effect, unlike a wind farm which would seem to have negative environmental effects.
Also of the 200 individuals and 50 businesses The Moonies Hill Energy submission says "may" be involved in the construction of the wind farm how many would they estimate would come from our district? One would suspect that people with the necessary expertise would have to come from outside the district with the resultant incomes leaving the district.
With regard to the need for more Green energy we ourselves favour individual scale more self sufficient households/ businesses, incorporating, solar and or small wind turbines that do not have the deleterious health and environmental effects of the large ones.

6. Electromagnetic Interference. The development application also failed to cover electromagnetic interference to bush fire radios. The application only investigated fixed radio links. However when our volunteer fire fighters are

fighting a fire they rely on mobile radios and mobile phones. How are they going to operate efficiently and safely in the area of the turbines? What area of influence are the turbines likely to have on mobile radios?

The Application also does not say what, the "range of measures", that would be employed to mitigate any television reception interference are. Or if indeed, such mitigation is at all possible.

In conclusion we do not believe that the Moonies Energy's proposal for the Flat Rock's wind farm is in ours, or our community's best interest, for the reasons outlined above. We also do not believe that the project has the community and land holder support as stated in their application. We strongly request that the Shire deny the approval of the proposed Wind farm development.

Yours Faithfully,

Lynette Marie Mathwin



David Richard Mathwin



Graham Hugh Mathwin

