25 JAN 2011

ICR2845

Submission for Wind farm

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The Moonies Hill Wind Farm in the Flatrocks area is a major concern for our families and our farming operation. I was offered to have the turbines on our Palomar Farms and after doing a lot of research on the long term effects and the repercussions of the turbines we declined and are dead against having a wind farm in the area.

I believe that wind farms have their place but not in a highly populated farming area. We have three farms with three houses on them, which Moonies Hill want to put turbines 800m from them. The health impacts that are now coming out about wind farms are very scary. I highlight the ABC report that highlighted people's sickness and overall dislike of the turbines in their area.

Reports have shown that land values will be decreased in the area, We purchased Palomar Farms in 2010 and if a wind farm was next door I would have looked at the farm in a lot different angle and I don't think I would have purchased the farms. I believe that the Flatrocks area is some off the best farming land in WA and don't think that Moonies Hill should be able to devalue such an area.

Our farming operation is run on GPS, the interference from the windfarm could have a massive impact, as all our machines are auto steered. On most wet years we have used crop dusters to apply fertilizers and chemicals to our crops. This will be a thing of the past if a windfarm is next door, I rang my contractor and he stated it would be too dangerous to fly anywhere near the farm as the turbulence will travel along way and he deemed the area would be a no fly zone. I have a aeroplane myself which I use for travel to Perth for work and other activities, there is not much point in having a plane if I cannot land at my house as it will be surround by wind turbines.

At Christmas I went to my old family farm in South Australia which now has a wind farm on the back side of it, I wanted to see first hand what it would be like to live and farm there. There is no way in this world you would wish that on anyone. Firstly the noise was amazing; it was not loud but more intense. Standing next to a tower you would hear the other towers over the one you were next to and they seemed to resonate between them. These huge towers have vandalized the landscape and they do not look natural at all. I spent a bit of time at the windfarm and thought to myself that this is exactly NOT what the Flatrocks area needs.

With the numbers presented From Moonies Hill about the clean green energy of the Flatrocks wind farm, I have been shown some data that states that the coal/gas generator will still have to run at the same output incase the wind turbines shut down due to too low/high winds. Energy can't be stored, as supply must equal demand. With their output over a year likely to be less than 30% how does this stack up? It is all about the Government targets on green energy.

In the eastern states as we speak the wheel is turning on windfarm. There is an inquiry into the effects and pushing them out to 2km from houses for 2 megawatts towers. We

need to learn from what has happened at other windfarms and not make the same mistakes in our area.

Moonies Hill have produced all the positive data and info about windfarms but there is so much info saying it will have a negative effect, How can the Shire and Government risk taking that chance with people's health and livelihoods for the benefit of only a few and an offshore energy company.

We believe that negatives outweigh the positives ten fold and we hope the Shires after learning all the facts and experiences from people around windfarms DO NOT give the go ahead for this project.

Yours sincerely

CRAIG DENNIS