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SHIRE OF KOJONUP				
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RGR	SFO	WM	CDPO	PB
NRSM	SHM	PLAN	✓	

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COPY

18th May 2011

To the Kojonup CEO & Shire Councillors

Dear Stephen,

We request that this letter be tabled at the next Shire councillors meeting, please.

We are writing as ratepayers & concerned community residents regarding the decision process on the Flat Rocks Windfarm proposal. We understand there has been a visit to the Merredin Wind Farm construction site where like any major construction project there will be initial benefits. At this point in time it was not operational & is in a remote location so does not give a true comparison to the FRWF which is in a populated area.

We would suggest that the Council consider a visit to the Ballarat/Waubra Wind Farm which would be far more relevant as people's homes are in proximity to the turbines. The damage to these people's lives & their ability to run their farms has been enormous. Our health is one of the most important things in our life! We believe that it is a very powerful indictment when people who were originally in favour of the turbines are now no longer able to live in their own homes! As each day goes by, it seems more adverse health effects are starting to be recognised as a consequence of being in proximity to the wind turbines.

The usual quoted response to any health issues concerning wind turbines is that there is no scientific proof. This was the exact response that tobacco companies were making regarding health concerns in the past. We all know the effects that smoking has on people's health now!

Why would the Federal Government be having a Senate Enquiry into the subject if there were no concerns? On that matter, it would seem sensible to wait for the outcome of the Commission to get some guidance on what others think before making a decision on allowing a permit for the proposal.

What is the rush?

Our other major concern is on land values & our ability to carry on business without effect. In the Councils Planning & Development Act 2005 it states that the Rural Zones objectives are :

- a) The zone shall consist of predominantly rural uses.
- (b) To protect land from urban uses that may jeopardise the future use of that land for other planned purposes which are compatible with the zoning.

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(c) To protect the land from closer development which would detract from the rural character and amenity of the area.

(d) To prevent any development which may affect the viability of a holding.

We have heard of a select report saying that land values are not affected. This is absolute rubbish if you think about it! If you were offered two pieces of land, one with Industrial Wind Turbines nearby & one not exposed to such structures, that were otherwise identical, which would you choose?

Competition is lessened & land would be worth less than it was. In fact it almost seems like a direct transfer of wealth from landholders on & around the FRWF to the individuals proposing this project. We have some very good friends involved in the project & in no way want this to become a "them & us" division in our community. But we do reserve the right to have our objections.

Widespread community support seems to be a quote that Moonies Hill Energy have been using right from the initial proposal. As a direct neighbour the only correspondence we have received is the proposal & the amendment sent to us from the Shire. So until we received the proposal, we had not been officially informed of the project, but Moonies Hill Energy has claimed that it had widespread community support. Most people we spoke to after that, in the district were completely unaware of the proposal.

The consultation process in our experience has been completely lacking by Moonies Hill Energy. Their way of consulting has been for us to find out what turbines are to be imposed on us & where they are sited, which seems to be a constantly changing process. As a consequence, we believe nearly all the direct neighbours are opposed to this project.

We have looked on the Shire website & have noticed that the minutes to the Council meetings held in March & April 2011 are not available for public view.

As residents of the Kojonup Shire, we appreciate the efforts that you the Shire Councillors make on our behalf & would ask that you seek out all the views before making a decision on this very important issue that has the potential to change lives & community unity.

Yours sincerely,

Alan & Narelle Goodall

