

30 AUG 2011

# Maybenup

**COPY**

Albany Highway, Kojonup, Western Australia ICR5456

29<sup>th</sup> August 2011

To Shire President Mrs Jill Mathwin,  
Shire of Kojonup Councillors and CEO Mr Stephen Gash,

SHIRE OF KOJONUP				
FILE:	DB.BDA.8			
CEO	EC or HC	NFA	MCS	MRCS
RGR	SFO	WM	CDPO	PB
NRSM	SHM	PLAN	✓	

Dear Jill, Councillors and Stephen,

You could well be forgiven for thinking "oh, no, another letter from Pam about wind farms" and I would have every sympathy with that point of view.

Since last November, I have not envied the very hard decision you have to make on the Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd proposal to build an industrial wind farm at Flat Rocks.

For the record, yet again, I am absolutely not opposed to generating electricity from renewable resources such as sun, wind and wave, but I do have grave concerns about the positioning of wind turbines close to human habitation and neighbour's boundaries, mainly because of potential health concerns as well as inhibiting what a landowner can do on his/her property..

I have enclosed a copy of an article from the Warnambool Standard of 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011 to let you know of a decision made by the Moyne Shire Council in Victoria.

I also have some recent information on health issues and from the NHMRC which if you wish, I can email to you, or print off and post to you. Please let me know if you would like to receive that additional information.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pam McGregor

# Moyne Shire axes 'arrogant' wind farm projects

The Warrnambool Standard

ALEX SINNOTT 25 Aug, 2011 04:00 AM

MAJOR wind farm projects at Hawkesdale and Yambuk have been thrown into limbo after the Moyne Shire advised the state government to block a permit extension to developers.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy yesterday indicated he would accept the council's advice, effectively killing off \$430 million worth of proposed investment in renewable energy infrastructure.

Moyne Shire councillors voted on Tuesday night to oppose extending permits for the proposed Hawkesdale and Ryan Corner wind farm projects, granted to developers Union Fenosa three years ago.

The Standard understands the move is the first time that a Victorian council have been able to successfully oppose a wind farm proposal since the Baillieu government won office last year.

Mr Guy vowed earlier this year to return planning power on major energy projects to local government, in contrast to predecessor Justin Madden's centralised approach to decision-making.

Moyne mayor Jim Doukas said many renewable energy developers had become arrogant and believed the council decision was a warning to other project operators. He said councillors were unimpressed with how Union Fenosa consulted council and the wider community.

"Renewable energy developers think they have carte blanche with local shires, that we'll just rubber stamp whatever they want," Cr Doukas said.

"Well, those days are over. "It has been overkill for the past couple of years and this Ryan Corner knock-back is a big wake-up call to the others (energy developers) that they need to lift their game."

Cr Doukas said Union Fenosa had failed to update its wind farm blueprints for the Ryan's Corner and Hawkesdale projects, omitting important details such as changes to state government set back rules.

He said the developers had been "a little arrogant in assuming that Moyne Shire would rubber stamp the project."

A spokeswoman for the Planning Minister said the state government was committed to returning energy project decision-making to local councils.

"The Coalition government committed to giving planning authority back to local councils on wind farms," she said.

"We have done that and Moyne's decision shows that this is now the case."

Changes to noise standards, turbine "set-back" requirements and aesthetic reasons were cited by Moyne councillors as reasons to oppose the present permit lodged by Union Fenosa.

Friends of the Earth spokesman Cam Walker said the decision would set a disturbing precedent.

Mr Walker said it would push wind turbine development interstate.

He said yesterday's application knock-back was the first time a local council had opposed a renewable energy development under the state government's new planning rules.

Former planning minister Justin Madden announced in August 2008 that the state government would give the go-ahead to the 68-turbine Ryan Corner development and a smaller 31-turbine project at Hawkesdale.

A Union Fenosa spokesman said wet weather during the past season had prevented developers from accessing the Ryan Corner site sandwiched between Orford, Yambuk and Port Fairy.

Similar wet conditions were reported at the Hawkesdale wind farm site, south-east of the township.

However, a company representative was unable to comment to *The Standard* last night on the Planning Minister's decision.