

**Cindy Westbrook**

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**From:** Stephen Gash  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2011 9:04 AM  
**To:** Phil Shephard  
**Cc:** Dominique Hodge  
**Subject:** ICR2865 - FW: Flat Rocks Wind Farm Submission  
**SynergySoft:** ICR2865

**COPY**

Phil

Submission attached

Dom please record in system

Regards

Stephen Gash

**Chief Executive Officer**

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

93 Albany Highway Kojonup WA 6395 | PO Box 163 Kojonup WA 6395  
**Tel: 9831 2400 | Fax: 9831 1566 | [www.kojonup.wa.gov.au](http://www.kojonup.wa.gov.au)**



**FOR RECIPIENTS EXTERNAL TO THE SHIRE OF KOJONUP**

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**From:** Ben Wilson [mailto:[brcwilson@bigpond.com](mailto:brcwilson@bigpond.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 30 January 2011 7:08 PM  
**To:** Stephen Gash  
**Subject:** Flat Rocks Wind Farm Submission

G,day Steve,  
A little light reading.  
Regards,  
Ben Wilson

Kingshurst Grazing Co  
1240 Warrenup Rd  
Broomehill 6318  
08 98253083 (ph)  
08 98253097 (fax)  
0419 193744 (Mob)

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Mr Stephen Gash  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Kojonup  
93 Albany Highway, Kojonup  
Western Australia 6395

Dear Stephen,

**RE: Proposed Flat Rocks Wind Farm:**

As a landowner who hopes to host turbines and a proponent of the proposed Flat Rocks Wind Farm I am in full support of the project. The benefits are both great from a personal and community point of view. Kojonup faces many future challenges for it to remain the vibrant community it is today. I strongly believe the wind farm development will go a long way to address these challenges.

- 1) Recently the sign on the outskirts of town informing the public of the size of the population of Kojonup has been changed from 2500 to around the 2000 mark. I can't help but speculate that in the not too distant future the sign will be changed again to less than 2000. There are a large number of retirees who are not being replaced by younger generations. The wind farm development will expose the town to many people who are employed during the construction phase and will offer 10 – 15 permanent positions after commissioning, going some way to reverse this situation.
- 2) Over the past decade there has been a decline in rainfall on our property. This can be another contentious issue in the community but scientific models from climate forecasters suggest this will continue into the future. As predominantly a farming community, and rainfall being a major profit driver, the fortunes for the district may not be what they have been in the past. The development of the wind farm will broaden the economic base of the district and be used as leverage to attract other industry.
- 3) The wind farm proposal will also increase the viability of individual farmers as the turbines will generate extra income. Although the present development will only benefit a small number of farmers there is nothing to say that in the future there won't be further developments or an expansion that will benefit many more individuals.
- 4) Being a proponent of the wind farm I have done significant research on the effect of wind turbines on people's health and the surrounding environment. As far as the environment is concerned the only aspect that may be slightly altered is the view (which I may add is always changing). In regard to any adverse health effects I have found very little evidence to suggest that there are any provided all state planning guidelines are complied with. There are plenty of publications that say there is, adverse effects, but the arguments are weak and are not backed up with any scientific evidence. I also find it quite offensive at the suggestions that I

would support a development that would put my family and other members of the community at risk.

- 5) I support this project as I believe the overall benefits to Kojonup and the broader community will be very positive

On a more personal level I have been very disappointed in the miss information and general untruthfulness of information disseminated by a small minority of people that are opposed to the project for whatever reason. I have also been disappointed in people's willingness to accept this information without checking the facts for themselves. I really think this project is an acid test for the community in regards to how they see the future of the town and its surrounds.

Do they want innovation and to embrace projects that diversify the regions economic base in order to insulate it from an uncertain future?

Or is there a genuine unwillingness for change in which we roll with the punches and disregard the casualties along the way?

Ben Wilson