

NE & SJ COLLINS  
Lavieville Grazing Co  
"Golden Valley"  
2020 Flat Rocks Road  
BROOMEHILL WA 6318

Mr Steven Gash  
CEO  
Shire of Kojonup  
93 – 95 Albany Highway  
KOJONUP WA 6395

30<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Dear Steven,

We are near neighbours to the proposed Flat Rocks Wind Farm. While we are not rate payers in the Kojonup shire, we have previously lived in the Orchid Valley area and maintain a relationship in the community with family, friends and supporting local businesses. As you are aware MHE have withdrawn their planning application for the Broomehill/Tambellup shire due to the planning scheme. MHE confirmed that they will be applying for an amendment to this scheme and will continue to seek approval in both shires for their project.

The main issue with wind farms across Australia is that they are being cited in inappropriate and socially unsustainable locations. Until independent research is conducted into set back distances for health and land value reasons, wind farms pose a danger to our communities and their members. It is important that the decision makers in each shire are aware that there are problems with wind farms in other parts of Australia and we do not want this happening to us. We urge the council to be adequately informed on all issues on wind farms before making a decision.

This week in Victoria the government has introduced new laws with regards to wind farms. Now turbines cannot be placed within 2km from a dwelling without written consent. Currently in Western Australia the distance is 800m. The Victorian planning minister Matthew Guy has said "it is important that while wind energy develops, it does not do so to the detriment of rural and regional Victorians". The MHE proposal is placing turbines within 1km of peoples home and this will be detrimental to our residents and communities. Western Australians needs to ask why the Victorian government has has taken such a strong stance on future citing of turbines and protect its rural population as they are.

While we are for a cleaner and greener society and are not against wind farming, this project has the potential to ruin our lives and livelihoods. Any decisions made need to be taken with extreme caution.

Regards,

Nick and Stephanie Collins