

Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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I have been subjected to having a wind farm project thrust upon my community since 2018.

My experience has been one of tremendous heartache and betrayal by both the wind farm operator and our fellow host neighbours. The wind farm that I speak of is Wambo Wind Farm Jandowae.

I have previously reported to the AEIC and SARA numerous issues that have occurred with the Wambo Wind Farm – lack of community engagement

- Roads inadequate for use (proper assessments not completed beforehand)
- No consultation for how we use the roads and our land prior to development. We have been reduced to only being able to move stock to one day a week since they have overtaken the road (it simply is not safe)
- We have also been subjected to numerous patch jobs which would suggest that more money is being spent when if they had done a job correctly in the first place would not be required. (Jolimont Road for example)
- Water – bores that were identified as stock and domestic use only getting rapid approval for use to water roads. Bores going dry, but neighbour has cashed in.
- Lack of sound monitoring
- Lack of willingness to sit down and discuss neighbour payment scheme.
- No willingness to move turbines away from non hosts yet expect us to be quiet and grateful.
- Wambo Wind Farm did not discuss shadow flicker with non hosts before the construction of turbines, or after for that matter – even when it has been brought to their attention (Jan 23rd meeting)
- Wambo Wind Farm Noise Assessment has 37dBA approved as compliant for a non host when it is not compliant – should be less than 35dBA at night. (See Receptor 12 – Wambo Wind Farm Noise Assessment 2020)
- Talk of Stage 3 – Wambo Wind Farm requested that it be confidential. Don't see how that fits into community engagement. They are trying to control the narrative.
- Blue trees painted in our community. No consultation. They don't care about non host's mental health. They are virtue signaling.
- Wambo Wind Farm Facebook Page – never address any posts. There is no community engagement other than them telling us what they have done. Once again lectured to and telling us how great they have been when they won't actually address the non host community in particular.
- Cubico in particular have also taken an extraordinary long time to respond to enquiries, often not responding due to "losing information or contact details". Have had to remind them several times about proper protocol.
- We are concerned that wind turbines are exempt from the Noise Policy 2019.

Who is going to ensure that the wind farms are not exceeding the noise limit?

What is the consequence for exceeding the limit? Who will enforce this? Who will protect us?

We certainly do not trust them to. Coopers Gap Wind Farm 10km away has major issues that no one wants to address with sound. Is that what we are to expect?

This is why we are fighting so hard to have the independent acoustic expert that we trust and not someone that Cubico wants. After everything that we have gone through we do not trust this company to care about non hosts. **They don't address shadow flicker issues, noise issues that we have brought to them from their own documents.** Yet we are supposed to just blindly accept whoever they want.

I have given documents to [REDACTED] (AEIC) and [REDACTED] (Dept of Development and Infrastructure) showing a particular acoustic specialist that Cubico wanted to have as inappropriate. Cubico [REDACTED] that we want.

Communities need to have more clout. We are being walked over. We are the ones who are living with turbines 24/7. What about our health, our well being. Our neighbours, who have cashed in plan to leave the area, are buying properties elsewhere. They have signed up for 45dBA day and night – the houses are not that far from ours. This area should never been considered due to how populated it is. And now Cubico is complaining that they can't pay the non hosts the same money for each turbine in the 3km radius that they promised. They should not have put so many turbines near people's homes.

One family has 12 turbines 3km from their home. They should receive \$7500 for each turbine in that zone. Not the 2 turbines at \$7500 then \$3000 for the next 6 and then \$1500 the other 4. The land owners who agreed to having turbines, who got to say where they would have them get paid +\$30000 for each turbine. Non hosts get no say where they go, and then screwed over with their sliding scale – and have to deal with the noise on top of it all let alone the visual aspect. If the Wind Farm Company doesn't want to pay non-hosts then don't put turbines anywhere near them.

Which then leads to the next problem. 1.5km is not adequate. The size of these turbines is enormous. Wambo Wind Farm 247m to hub. Coopers Gap 110m to hub. Wambo Wind Farm turbines are far too close to people's homes. I predict that there will be issues when noise monitoring commences and it is going to be too late. These turbines should be atleast 3 km from homes.

We also are left wondering if we will have to have deal with any issues regarding debris and our cattle in years to come.

It is distressing having to readdress these issues again and again. Which brings up my last point. Cubico is trying to get a stage 3 underway. I have known about it since 2022. Not because they have personally told me but through others. They will continue to push until

they get what they want. Not necessarily what is good for the community but what they want. They have told me it is currently on hold but it could be reworked and held over for years. **This is not acceptable. This is what kills communities. The constant badgering for companies to make money at any expense.** Communities need to be able to say no and know that we are respected. At this point I can see that many communities will be divided and that they will not be able to come back from it.

My community at Diamondy is broken from the Wambo Wind Farm and more communities with suffer the same fate if the government does not step in and really examine what has been going on.