

State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee

From: Rodney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2020 9:35 PM
To: State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee
Subject: Forest wind development

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10

My name is Rodney Lamprey I own a property at [REDACTED]
 I would like to formally make comment on the proposed Forest wind development reference number 2020/8636. I have submitted a complaint form to the National Wind Farm Commissioner. I have also lodged with the commissioner the *complaint forms on behalf of others* for a further 29 local residence from my community. We are continually being sent more and more red tape and hoops to jump through, we now find that this development is prohibited by the Land act of 1994 and Forest act of 1959. But our democratically elected representatives are pursuing this project without listening to the local community who will be directly impacted by this development. I have been in communication with the developer directly and the national wind farm commissioner's staff however all of our concerns are generically replied as highly unlikely (developer) and from the commissioner staff as *subject closed*. I feel like I have been speaking to the school principal deputy and all he has done is tell the SCHOOL BULLY ...

I have been in correspondence with Mr Euikuk Park, complaints officer of the National Wind Farm Commissioner and with the developer Clean Sight-Forest wind holding. The nearest operating or proposed turbine is approximately **3.2 KM** to my community. We are seeking an exclusion zone at least 5 KM preferable 10 KM from our residences. Listed below are our concerns for public comment I would like to register with your department.

Sincerely

Rodney John Lamprey

HEALTH CONCERNS

Health issues primarily associated with constant exposure to **Infrasound** *which is only an obligatory part of the planning code?* Infrasound sometimes referred to as low-frequency sound, describes sound waves with a frequency below the lower limit of audibility (generally 20 Hz). Hearing becomes gradually less sensitive as frequency decreases, so for humans to perceive infrasound, the sound pressure must be sufficiently high. The ear is the primary organ for sensing infrasound, but at higher intensities it is possible to feel infrasound vibrations in various parts of the body. Now in 2020 there is three decades of reports of adverse health effects, research has shown that infrasound and low frequency noise cause disturbances both in sleep and in physiologic direct link causal effects, the range of low frequency noise that's been proven to cause these are measured in the wind turbine developments. **Vibroacoustic disease (VAD)** is a **whole-body, systemic pathology**, characterized by the **abnormal proliferation of extra-cellular matrices**, and caused by excessive exposure to low frequency noise (LFN). Over 90 worldwide professionals and medical researchers that aren't linked to **any type of industry conflict** have signed to this statement. Why is this still not recognized and often discounted by our federal and state planning authorities, national health and medical research bodies? When backing up arguments against any correlation to health issues in humans living near wind energy farms a lot of the literature is not current (*no current studies the latest 2014*) and heavily weighted with pro clean energy philosophy that infrasound from wind farms is NOT A PROBLEM. In 2018, the World Health Organization published [new environmental noise guidelines](#) I have not seen any mention of this in our federal or state guideline references?

The Forest winds planning paper for noise impact assessment was conducted to ISO9613-2 standard from 1996 the forest winds paper assumed atmospheric conditions of 10°C and 70% humidity "I have never experience these conditions my entire time living at Tuan even in winter we do not have a daytime temperature anywhere near 10 degree" the paper was conducted with baseline criterion rather than the real rural background noise in my area. Whilst many Australian wind farms are located in areas that are sparsely populated the extent of complaints associated with wind farms indicates, from a noise

perspective, that the controls in place are ineffective and/or the planning criteria is unacceptable to rural communities. I would consider our location to be in one of these rural communities. The selection of acoustic criteria for the purpose of wind farms has not been based on scientific studies in Australia, but has utilised criteria from overseas (primarily based on road traffic) and using a base level different to the generalised concept adopted by various authorities of assuming for the purpose of industrial noise sources a default background level of 30 dB(A) in rural environments.

The wind turbine signature can be detected at distances significantly removed from the wind farm with measurements revealing the Wind Turbine Signature pattern 8 km from one wind farm in South Australia. Flinders University research into turbine noise and sleep found that low-frequency pulsing from a South Australian wind farm was audible about 16 per cent of the time inside homes up to 3.5 kilometres from a turbine, including 22 per cent of the time at night. The noise was audible 24 per cent of the time outside the homes. Recordings detected what complainants commonly describe as a pulsating, thumping or rumbling sound. The noise is technically known as amplitude modulation and relates to a change in noise level that occurs approximately once per second as the turbine blade rotates. A study carried out in Satakunta and Northern Ostrobothnia in Finland shows that the damage caused by infrasound from wind power plants will only decrease significantly more than **15 kilometers** away from wind turbines. The study was carried out by the Finnish Association for Environmental Health (SYTe) 2016.

My home which is located in Tuan a very quiet and tranquil coastal community of approximately 160 permanent residence. The age demographic for Tuan is majority of 60 years old plus a mature aging population who may be more susceptible to health issues that can be generated from the Forest wind farm close proximity 3km buffer from our homes.

If we could negotiate a larger setback distance from Tuan houses bordering on the to the Forest wind farm turbines, I feel this would mitigate a lot our health concerns.

PROPERTY VALUE

I have very real concerns for the potential financial ramifications of the Forest Winds project on the resale value of our family home which we built in 2010 for the lifestyle benefits of this tranquil haven. The Forest Winds Assessment of the Impact of Wind Farms on Surrounding Land Values in Australia was generically created in 2013 and using very selective data samples from 8 wind farm communities in two states Victoria and NSW unfortunately only 45 properties have sold in these areas and the report concluded that Wind farms do not appear to have negatively affected property values in most cases. However, I am rather sceptical of such findings as the report also stated that there were several properties purchased by the wind farm developers.

The report also stated rural lifestyle properties in one location (Toora) had 6%, 24%, 25% and 27% reductions, I would describe my home and many homes in my area as rural lifestyle properties. The report also stated properties located close to the wind turbines it was estimated that the sale after the construction of the wind farm was approximately 30% below the market value of the property had the wind farm not existed. The report also draws on international data from last century to back up their statistics and conclusion which I do not think is relevant today in 2020 Australia. The fact that there have been many media reports of people abandoning their properties once wind farms are commissioned close to them and unable to find a buyer for their homes. However, this potential loss of 30% of my property value is improbable and NOT SIGNIFICANT in the opinion of the Forest winds developer, which I find hard to believe.

VISUAL AESTHETICS

The Planning Scheme identifies significant landscape areas and features within the study area such as Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Strait and Coastal foreshore areas and streams which will not be as enjoyable in the boat fishing with metal trees soon to be dominating our environment. The landscape and visual impact assessment stated there are a number of residents on rural properties and individual properties within the study area who may gain views of the proposed wind farm. Interesting that our community of Tuan was omitted in this documents list of census 2016 population data? We feel that our pristine local environment will be compromised with the proliferation of 295-meter-high (*at tip height*) wind turbines scattered amongst natural wilderness. Given the wind farm is situated on privately leased forestry land the viewpoint 2 at Boonooroo, photomontage indicate that the turbine rotor sweeps and blades would be expected to be seen at an angle or side on for a large proportion of the time that they are in operation. Although the Boonooroo photomontage clearly shows turbines in the distance towards Poona, our view from Tuan would be further amplified given the direct distance (*as the crow flies*) from that photo location to our Tuan boat ramp of 1.6 km. We can see world heritage listed Fraser Island from our top balcony this is a beautiful location and now I anticipate in the future when I look to the south I will see above the mangrove, native bush and forestry plantations a new man made metal forest with

spinning branches towering 295 meters above into the horizon. As I have suggested earlier a greater setback from the proposed turbine location could greatly reduce the visual impact of the wind farm on our community. From the proposed turbine location maps there appears to be a disproportionate amount turbine location facing east along the coastal corridor. To accommodate a bigger setback zone the relocation of some turbines could be towards the southern and western perimeters of the development which seem to be less utilised than the eastern aspects.

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE

Forest Wind's turbines will be situated to avoid or minimise and mitigate electromagnetic interference. This means Forest Wind will have no impact on your TV, radar and radio transmission and reception as stated on the Forest wind website. However, our digital TV reception is not very good with atmospheric conditions determining a good, poor freezing and pixellation or no signal at all since the switch from analog TV signal. With the pending electromagnetic interference fields from wind turbines I am unsure if we will experience any reception at all particularly in poor weather conditions.

WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

According to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, "if wind farms are located **away** from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding, and roosting areas of at-risk bird species, it is likely that they will have minimal impacts" We are lucky that our own renowned migratory birdlife are not found in the proposed wind farm site location and the extensive **total 16 hour** observation study did not identify any of these species even though they inhabit locations between 3 to 5 km away from this area? I was interesting to see that only 1 of the seven bat areas surveyed was of a coastal location interestingly also that location Maaroom recorded the highest bat population. Local knowledge would suggest there are significant populations at Poona and surrounding coastal locations We have observed on many occasion large bat populations flying directly into the Tuan forest from the coastline at dusk. Forest wind survey locations = 1. Glenwood Varley Road (53) 2. Maaroom, Esplanade (209) 3. Goomboorian, Anderleigh Rd Ginger Creek (55) 4. Maryborough, Kent Street (88) 5. Maryborough, Albion Rd Wetlands (Island Plantation) (87) 6. Gympie (53) 7. Woocoo (171). Mosquito populations have increased tenfold over the last 50 years according to long-term datasets from mosquito monitoring programs in the USA. As mosquito populations have risen, mosquito born viruses affecting humans including Ross river fever, Dengue fever and Zika virus are beginning to increase globally. A University of Michigan Study found that bats could eat 32% of mosquitoes in a given area. Our sub-tropical location is a great breeding ground for Mosquitos after severe rain events like we have experienced in the past weeks. This week I noticed our local supermarkets had completely sold of personal insect repellents.

Forest winds paper stated possible mitigation measure could include a trial acoustic and/or sonar to deter bats/birds would this not be mandatory to counteract the well documented fatal strikes by turbine blades on flying animals if it was advantageous in any reduction of fatalities. How would this sonar affect other animals native and domestic in our region? We love our close proximity to the native wildlife and regularly spend time on our property observing them. We are fortunate to see at close hand kangaroo's, goannas and a plethora of diverse bird species which we hope will not change in the future. I did not see reference of local commonly seen birds such as cranes, rainbow lorikeet and the numerous different duck species in the paper. Contrary to dubious studies financed and controlled by vested interests, the population of our wildlife in the Great Sandy Straits Biosphere is now set to decline if this proposal is approved in full. No amount of bad science financed by the wind industry and government agencies has been able to convince conservationists that wind farms don't harm bird and bat populations worldwide.

Many animals are known to be able to hear infrasound, such as cows, cuttlefish, ferret, goldfish, horses, octopi, pigeons, rock doves, squid, and whales. Research published in The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America suggests that the whales use infrasound for long range communication. I am curious to know what if any effect will the forest wind project will have on our marine life? The Whale City-Hervey Bay has a thriving tourism industry based around the annual migration of humpback whales from southern waters. I wonder what the truth is when it comes to marine mammals at least, we don't know the extent of potential wind farm impacts to large, migratory whales because this maybe the first time that wind farms are being built along a known migratory corridor such as the Great Sandy Strait. Will wind turbine operation creates noise that may affect whale, dugong, turtle, rare Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins and other cetaceans. Noise from operating turbines may be able to reach a marine life through an initially waterborne, airborne, or substrate-borne vibration paths. In conclusion I would like to quote former Greens leader Dr Bob Brown We have alternatives for renewable energy.

We don't have alternatives for extinct species.

Researchers at SUNY New York looked at nearly 10 years of satellite data of areas around wind farms in Texas. Researchers chose Texas because it has four of the world's largest wind farms. The results showed night-time surface temperatures around areas with high volumes of wind turbines were 0.72 degrees C (1.3 degrees F) higher than areas where no wind farms existed. What caused the increase in

surface temperature? During the evening, the earth cools and brings the air temperature down. But near wind turbines, turbulence from the blades keeps the air warmer. Wind farms, if spatially large enough, might have noticeable impacts on local to regional meteorology," Liming Zhou, associate professor at the State University of New York, Albany. This project is the largest in the southern hemisphere do we know what the real impact it will have on our weather?

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Our home which is located in Tuan a very quiet and tranquil coastal community of approximately 160 permanent residence but is the holiday location for many other homeowners who do not permanently reside at their coastal shacks and homes. I doubt these people are aware of the pending development as many had returned to their primary place of residence before the Forest Winds the mail out was delivered on 20/01/2020. Much of the information in this mail out regarding the proposed wind farm development was ambivalent. The map showed a general outline of the proposed site and many people unfortunately are of the belief that it is being constructed near Gympie miles and miles and miles away from their homes. It is only after you access the Forest wind web site and navigate through the barrage of pdf files that a true picture of the proposed turbine location is evident.

We attended the public consultation and information forum hosted by Forest Winds at the Poona community hall on the 9th of February 2020. Unfortunately, this was not hosted in a public forum format moreover a divide and conquer with 3 representatives from the business addressing small groups of individuals 3 to 5 people at a time. It was hard to hear in such an environment although the Forest wind delegates were pleasant and amiable. I did hear conflicting information regarding employment numbers required after completion and the impact to our wellbeing from the different speakers as I moved from group to group. The generic response phrases of *highly unlikely* was consistent as their responses. We left this meeting feeling that our real concerns had not been addressed and we had been fobbed off!

In conclusion I would hope that our concerns are address and that some negotiation process could be achieved in relation to positioning of turbines that we feel will directly impact on our wellbeing and lifestyle. I have spoken to my state and local government members as well as contacted my federal members office. Mr James Pennay from Clean sight-Forest winds have also previously told me that "we will be neighbours" so it is in the interest of all parties to exist in a harmonious relationship. I look forward to hearing back from the National Wind Farm Commission regarding our complaint lodgment. Mr. Bruce Saunders MP Member of the Maryborough has indicated to me he would like to be involved and help facilitate any further consultation and negotiation proceedings.

Supporting information of our complaint

[Anthropogenic impacts on mosquito populations in North America over the past century](#)

[Experimental Assessment of the Impacts of Northern Long-Eared Bats on Ovipositing Culex \(Diptera: Culicidae\) Mosquitoes](#)

<http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/our-communities/communities/cape-bridgewater-acoustic-study-report>

2018 World Health Organization published [new environmental noise guidelines](#)

Finnish Association for Environmental Health study (SYTe) 2016.

Medical testimony of Dr Herb Coussons – February 15, 2017 USA Brown County Board of Supervisor meeting Comments from the Public

Liming Zhou, associate professor at the State University of New York, Albany and author of the paper published in Nature Climate Change