

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Residents angry about wind-farm secrecy**

**3 August 2005**

Angry residents in the rural communities around the Molonglo Ridge, south of Queanbeyan, say that EHN (Oceania) Pty Ltd, the developer of the proposed Molonglo wind-plant, has failed to keep its promises on community consultation.

"In December last year, when the developers went public with their proposal, they told us that consultation would be an important part of the wind-farm proposal process, and that there would be extensive community involvement." said Margaret Ritchie, President of the Molonglo Landscape Guardians.

However, she says that, instead of consulting with residents in the Googong, Carwoola and Burra areas, developers EHN (Oceania) Pty Ltd have failed to hold the Open Days they promised for last January, have not issued any progress updates to residents since last March, and have not replied to residents' correspondence asking when they intend to submit a development application.

"We are still just as much in the dark about their plans as we were last November, when we were first told about the wind-farm proposal. Even their web-site hasn't been updated since 25 February and still says that Information Open Days will be held in April 2005" said Ms Ritchie.

Ms Ritchie says that, although residents are angry about the apparent secrecy surrounding the wind-farm plans, they are not surprised. "EHN did not tell us about their plans until November 2004, a full 10 months after they had erected their wind-monitoring tower on the ridge, so lack of communication with residents is an ongoing issue."

"In November 2004, when EHN first notified residents about the wind-farm proposal they told us they would lodge the development application in February 2005. However, we now know that prior to this, in September 2004, EHN told ABC radio it would be another 12 months down the track before they had enough details to lodge an application" said Ms Ritchie.

"The onus is on EHN to be frank with the communities they are allegedly consulting with. They can start by telling us where they are up to with their proposal and a definite timetable for lodging their application," she said.

"We are speculating that EHN intend to lodge the application over the Christmas and New Year period, at a time when many residents will be busy, or away and won't have time to lodge an objection" said Ms Ritchie.

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