

MEDIA RELEASE

New group vows to save Molonglo Ridge from unwanted Wind Farm

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Members of communities opposed to the proposed Molonglo Wind-farm formed the Molonglo Landscape Guardians (MLG) last week, vowing to protect the ridgelines surrounding the Burra, Urila, Carwoola, Woolcara Lane, Primrose Valley, Koombahlah, Googong and Tinderry Mountain communities near Canberra.

Up to 60 wind turbines, spaced 200 metres apart, and standing 125 metres above the hills are proposed on about 12 kilometres of ridgelines from Carwoola in the north to Urila in the south. These would convert the hitherto unspoiled rural outlook of the ridges to an "industrial eyesore" according to members of the group. "The turbines, and their associated access roads, power lines and electricity sub stations will be visible from much of the local region, including Canberra and Queanbeyan, spoiling it for residents and visitors alike." said Margaret Ritchie and Wendy Bell, the newly elected President and Vice President of the Guardians.

The uninterrupted expanse of the Molonglo escarpment has long been recognised in local planning requirements yet this proposal, with its enormous visual and other environmental impacts, has by-passed the usual local planning processes and is to be determined by the New South Wales State Government" Ms Ritchie said. "From the tenor of public meetings in the area, it is clear the local community does not want it to go ahead" added Ms Bell.

Ms Ritchie said the Molonglo proposal will directly affect large numbers of nearby residents in adjacent subdivisions. If it is built, local residents say they will bear the brunt of the visual intrusion and noise of the towers, as well as decreased property prices. The site is close to environmentally sensitive areas like the Googong Dam and a number of conservation areas.

"The Molonglo Landscape Guardians are not opposed to wind energy", said Ms Ritchie, "but we believe wind-farms have to be located sensitively and away from rural communities and conservation areas, and this one clearly doesn't meet those criteria"

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