

Christmas not so merry for Wind-farm families
27 November 2005

Residents of Burra, Carwoola, Primrose Valley and Googong say they are determined to enjoy the forthcoming holiday season, despite the threat of the proposed Molonglo wind power-plant development looming on the horizon for the second Christmas running.

Spanish owned wind-plant developers, EHN (Oceania) Pty Ltd first notified residents of their plans to develop the Molonglo Ridge in November 2004, but now won't say if, or when, a development application will be lodged with the NSW State Government.

Although EHN promised extensive community consultation, residents have heard nothing from EHN since March, a full eight months ago.

Bruce Cotton and his family, whose property would be only 500 metres from the nearest 61 tonne, 102-105 decibel turbines, moved into their Carwoola property in November 2003.

"Instead of celebrating 1 year in our home in November 2004 we were trying to recover from the devastating news that EHN plan to put a huge industrial installation so close to our back fence" he said.

"Over one year later, we have not received any more information about EHN's plans than we had back then. They've gone quiet, and we're supposed to just put up with the stress and disruption that all this uncertainty brings," he said.

Residents will mark the anniversary of the proposed wind-plant with a Christmas get-together which Molonglo Landscape Guardians president, Margaret Ritchie, hopes will help to keep spirits up.

"It's been a year of great turmoil and upset. Many residents have put plans on hold, like renovations and landscaping, because they don't want to spend money on properties that are already suffering in value because of the wind-plant threat. Others who are trying to sell their homes are having to accept that sales are depressed. I shouldn't be surprised if local businesses are feeling the pinch", said Ms Ritchie.

"Some people have even put off their Christmas holidays so they will be around to object in case EHN decide to lodge a development application over the Christmas and New Year holiday period," she said.

MEDIA RELEASE

Ms Ritchie believes EHN have a responsibility to keep people informed. "Whatever people's views about the merits of Molonglo wind-plant, they can surely sympathise with the plight of residents" she said. "EHN can't drop this bombshell on us and then expect to slink off leaving residents hanging. All we hear through EHN's media releases is 'we are continuing with our studies'. They owe it to us to come clean about what's going on and exactly when they intend to lodge a development application"

For more details about the Molonglo Landscape Guardians Christmas get-together visit their web-site at www.mlg.org.au.

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