

# TURBULENT TIMES

Your alternative source of information about the Molonglo Wind Factory Proposal

December 2004

Some of us may have come away from the wind-power plant meeting on 1st December feeling depressed that our objections hadn't been taken seriously by the developers, EHN. Clearly, EHN aren't going to go away just because people have told them they don't want the wind plant here.

If you object to the proposal, and you want to do something positive to stop it, you **must** write to the local politicians, the media and NSW Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Craig Knowles, to let them know how you feel and why you feel that way. Some, but by no means not all, of the objections raised at the Burra meeting are summarised on page 4 of this newsletter.

Addresses for all relevant local, state and federal representatives as well as media outlets are on the last page of this newsletter.

The more letters that our representatives receive, the more they will understand that we have serious objections to this proposal in this place.

## Website

A group of residents in Carwoola who oppose the Molonglo Ridge proposal have set up a website at:

- <http://nomolonglowind.no-ip.info>

If you aren't sure what to write, you will find sample letters at the website above that you can edit and send to our local representatives, MPs or the media.

At the website you can register your objection to the proposal, as well as (but not instead of) writing letters.

## Local council

There was a meeting of Palerang Council on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. A group of Burra residents attended and lobbied for Council's support.

Council adopted an interim policy that 'wind farms are more appropriate to remote locations away from houses and especially rural residential areas'. Council did not specifically consider, or vote on, the Molonglo wind plant at this meeting, but seemed very supportive of residents' concerns. They said the interim policy will enable them to move quickly on representing our concerns to the State government. Council also seemed supportive of asking for an extension of time for the community's response to the Environmental Impact Statement.

## Can you help?

After the Burra Wind Farm meeting in early December, a number of people stayed behind and offered to act as contacts for the community effort. They are:

- Ian Richards, 155 London Bridge Road, 6236 3215, [jill.ianrichards@bigpond.com](mailto:jill.ianrichards@bigpond.com)
- Ken Old, 679 Burra Road, 6236 3284 [kmold@webone.com.au](mailto:kmold@webone.com.au)
- Larry Jordan 6236 3069 [larry.jordan@au1.ibm.com](mailto:larry.jordan@au1.ibm.com)
- Margaret Dorsch, 20 Wells Place, Googong, 0409 141 595, [mdorsch@arcbs.redcross.org.au](mailto:mdorsch@arcbs.redcross.org.au)
- Ros Bush, 1088 Burra Road, 6236 3536, [rbush@vtown.com.au](mailto:rbush@vtown.com.au)
- Wendy Bell, 265 London Bridge Road, 6236 3445 [ws.bell@bigpond.com](mailto:ws.bell@bigpond.com)

If you would like to be involved in the effort in any way, from leaflet delivery to providing expert advice and opinions, please contact one of the people listed above. We particularly need expertise in law, the environment, wildlife, noise, engineering, real estate valuations, lobbying, economics, energy industry – and anything else you can think of that might be useful!

## What they've said...

Here's some encouraging news. Steve Whan, our NSW Parliament member has said in the *Queanbeyan Age* that the region's residents value their views of the hills and he is concerned about the two local wind-farm proposals which might be visible to large numbers of residents around Carwoola, Queanbeyan, Burra, Bungendore and Bywong. He says that he will be "working with the Minister to ensure that he considers all issues including visual impact, noise, roads and local environmental impact".

Gary Nairn, our Federal member, has also indicated that he is "particularly concerned that such developments do not conflict with the local environment". He does not see the "proliferation of wind farms as being the most ideal form of alternative energy, even though they do have their place provided it is the right place and have local community support".

Terry Brandson, Mayor of the ECCRC has said in the *Queanbeyan Age* that the Council has not committed its support for the project. He and other councillors consider "wind farms are appropriate in remote areas, but not too close to houses and especially rural residential areas".

The *Queanbeyan Age* is giving magnificent ongoing coverage to the local wind-plant debate and have asked local residents to let them know what they think about the wind plant- it is published on Tuesdays and Fridays. Local radio and TV have also presented items on the issue.

# Molonglo Ridge: It's closer than you think

Many Burra residents might think that the proposed Wind Factory on Molonglo Ridge is far enough away that it won't bother or affect them.

Think again.

Wind Farm developers have already approached four local landholders in the Burra and Urila Valleys to seek agreement to install a wind monitoring tower on their Zone 1A (Rural) land. This is known as Stage 1 development in a Wind Farm proposal.

Do you want heavy traffic on our local roads during years of construction? Do you want the valley to be criss-crossed with high voltage power lines?

If a wind farm is established on Molonglo Ridge, how much easier will it be for wind farm developers to "crack the nut" in other places in the region, like Burra.

## ***Will you see the Molonglo Ridge turbines?***

Even if the approaches to local Burra residents to "host" a wind farm locally are rebuffed, the current proposal will still dominate our horizons. The green shaded parts on the map on the facing page indicate localities from where the turbines would be visible.

When mapping specialist and Carwoola resident Bruce Cotton realised the proximity of the Molonglo Ridge Wind Factory to his property in Wedgiewa Road, he used his professional skills to produce a map (shown here on the opposite page) which shows the visual impact of the proposal on the surrounding areas.

The map does not take into account local vegetation (ie, any plants and trees that already screen the view).

The turbines are gigantic – 80 metres in height, topped by a propellor/turbine with blades that are 45 metres in length. For residents living nearby, these structures will dominate the skyline.

The project proponents have confirmed that the towers will be lit at night to ensure visibility for aircraft using the Canberra Airport.

Is your property in the green area?

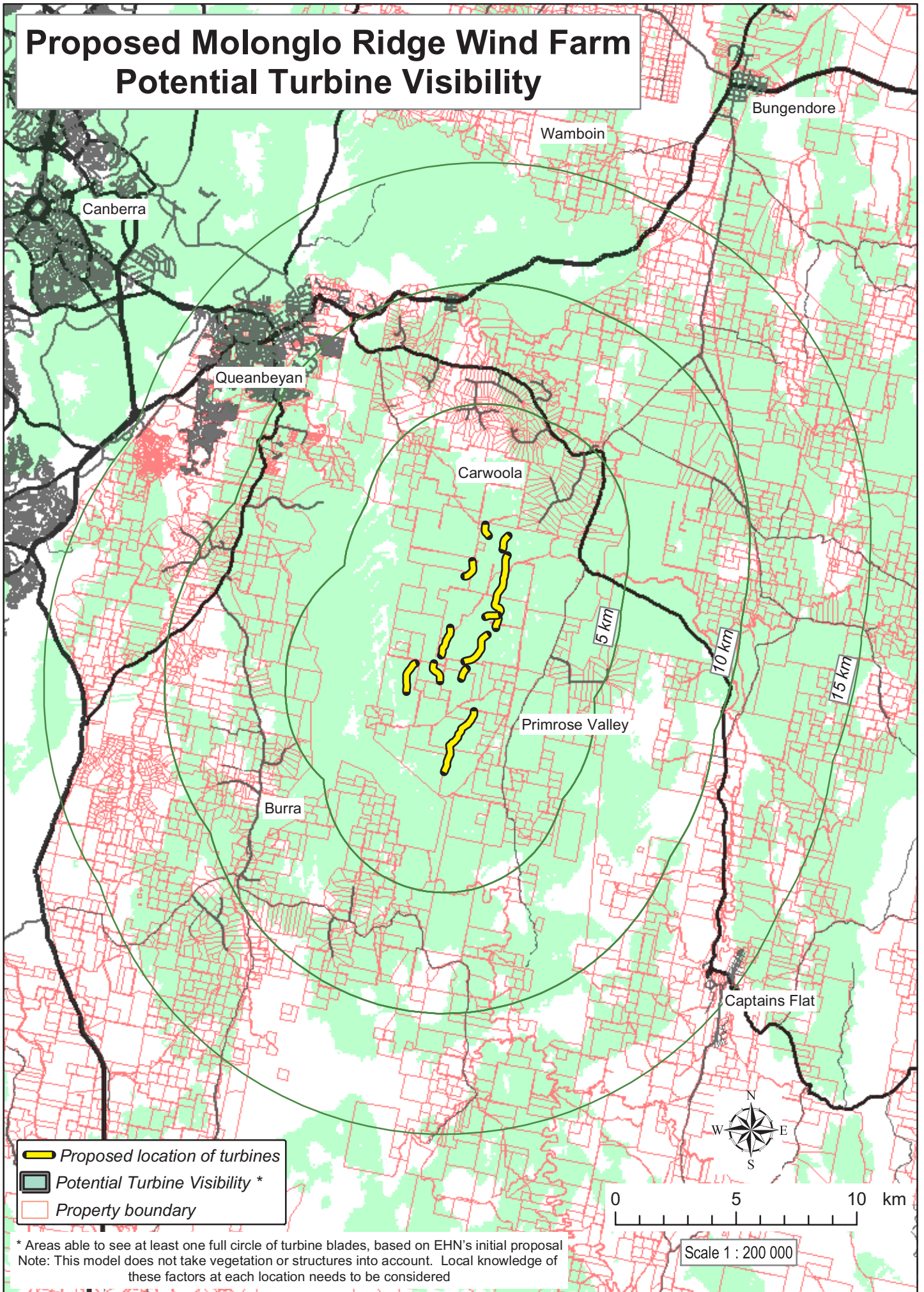
## ***What will the turbines look like from Burra?***

The photograph below was taken from a property in London Bridge Road. The turbines have been added to show the visual impact of turbines on the ridge above. The turbines depicted are in scale.

We value our rural views. We value unobstructed views of the bush. The addition of these huge, man-made structures will be a blot on the landscape.



# Proposed Molonglo Ridge Wind Farm Potential Turbine Visibility



\* Areas able to see at least one full circle of turbine blades, based on EHN's initial proposal  
 Note: This model does not take vegetation or structures into account. Local knowledge of these factors at each location needs to be considered

Scale 1 : 200 000

## Objections to the Molonglo Ridge proposal

**Noise pollution** – construction noise and noise from the turbines day in and day out, destroying the peace and quiet that people move here to enjoy.

**Visual pollution** – gigantic 125 metre structures dominating the skyline causing shadow flicker, and ruining the dark skies with red aircraft warning lights. Towers impairing the visual amenity of the ridgelines would be contrary to the Local Environment Plan.

**Wildlife** – blades spin at over 200kph - one death of a breeding wedge-tailed every 2 years will sterilise the area of these birds for good.

**Profit at residents' expense** – the company and land-owners who have a turbine built on their land will

profit at the expense of local residents who endure all the negatives with no compensation.

**Thin end of the wedge** – EHN are actively investigating other sites in the Burra area – where will it all end?

**Environmental degradation** – huge towers, blades, roads, power lines, electricity sub-stations, concrete mixing plants, will scar the landscape forever.

**Water catchment** - the wind-plant may compromise the water catchment for the Googong Dam, especially if trees are cut from the ridges.

**Property prices** – these are bound to fall as they have done elsewhere due to wind-towers.

**Instability** – wind-energy makes the

electricity grid unstable, the whole grid may go down as has happened overseas.

**Inefficiency** – The problem with wind power is that it is unpredictable (sometimes there is no wind, sometimes it is too windy to run the turbines) so to ensure supply coal-fired power stations need to be kept on standby. In other words, the coal fired power stations would still producing greenhouse emissions but for reduced power generation.

**Unsuitable area** – the SEDA wind atlas shows this to be a relatively non-windy area which will add to the above inefficiencies.

**Subsidies** - the tax-payer will ultimately foot the bill for these inefficiencies.

## Write, write, write...phone, phone, phone the following:

### Media

The Editor, Queanbeyan Age, PO Box 91, Queanbeyan.  
[editor.queanbeyanage@ruralpress.com](mailto:editor.queanbeyanage@ruralpress.com)

The Editor, Canberra Times, PO Box 7155 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610  
[letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au)

The Editor, Bungendore Mirror, PO Box 491, Bungendore NSW 2621  
[editor@bungendoremirror.com.au](mailto:editor@bungendoremirror.com.au)

### Politicians

#### State

The Hon Craig Knowles MP Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY 2000

Phone 02 9228 4204  
Fax 02 9228 3718

The Hon Steve Whan MP, Shop T5, Citylink Plaza, 30 Morisset St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Freecall 1800 654 199  
Fax 6297 9998  
[monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

#### Federal

The Hon Gary Nairn MP, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, PO Box 232, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Freecall 1300 301 983, Fax 6297 5768  
[g.nairn.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:g.nairn.mp@aph.gov.au)

Senator The Hon Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Phone 6277 7640, Fax 6273 6101  
[senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au)

#### Local

Cr Terry Brandson, Mayor ECCRC, 70 Wyoming Rd, Bywong, NSW 2620  
Phone 6236 9239, Mobile 0428 621 624  
[prplus@ozemail.com.au](mailto:prplus@ozemail.com.au)

Cr Jim Maclachlan, 149 London Bridge Road, Burra NSW 2620  
Phone 6236 3128, Mobile 0428 614 403  
[jimmac1@bigpond.com](mailto:jimmac1@bigpond.com)

Cr Matt Gardiner, 1 Birch Drive, Bungendore, NSW 2620  
Phone 6238 0828 Mobile 0403 789 970  
[mkc\\_gardiner@bigpond.com](mailto:mkc_gardiner@bigpond.com)

Cr Ian Marjason, PO Box 101, Bungendore, NSW 2621  
Phone 6238 1576, Mobile 0418 427 593  
[longfield14@bigpond.com](mailto:longfield14@bigpond.com)