

2.6 Letters from stakeholders



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence Support Group

2004/1044160/2
LPSI/OUT/110/2007

Mr Anthony Micallef
Epuron Pty Ltd
Suite 104
349 Pacific Highway
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Dear Mr Micallef

PROPOSED GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM NSW

1. I refer to your letter dated 21 August 2007 advising that Epuron is investigating the potential for a new wind farm to be located in the southern tablelands area of NSW. The Gullen Range wind farm will be located approximately 25 km north-west of Goulburn and will consist of a group of four interconnected wind farms (Kialla, Bannister, Pomeroy and Gurrundah). At this stage the exact number of turbines and layout has not been finalised however, the turbine height will have an above ground level (AGL) height of up to 126m AGL to the top of the blade tip.
2. The Department of Defence has assessed the proposal with respect to any possible impact on the safety of military flying operations and possible interference to Defence communications and radars.
3. The Department advises the proposed development will be located outside any areas affected by the Defence (Areas Control) Regulations (DACR). The DACR control the height of objects (both man-made structures and vegetation) and the purpose for which they may be used within approximately 15km radius of Defence airfields. In addition, the proposal is considered unlikely to affect Defence communications systems. There is an Airfield Surveillance Radar (ASR) located at *HMAS Albatross* in Nowra. However, the distance between the wind farm site and *HMAS Albatross* is considered sufficient to ensure nil impact on the operation of the ASR.
4. CASA has produced an Advisory Circular, AC 139-18(0) dated July 2007, entitled *Obstacle Marking And Lighting Of Wind Farms* which provides amongst other things, guidance to proponents of wind farms. Wind turbines are tall structures which can be hazardous objects to aviation and the AC outlines measures on how to reduce the hazard including the use of obstacle marking and lighting. In accordance with the AC, CASA will need to assess the proposal and provide determination.
5. As mentioned above, tall structures present a hazard to flight safety for low level flying operations. Consequently, there is an ongoing need to obtain and maintain accurate information about tall structures so that risks associated with inadvertent collision by low flying aircraft can be reduced. RAAF AIS in Melbourne is responsible for recording the location and height of tall structures. The information is held in a central database managed by RAAF AIS and relates to the erection, extension or dismantling of tall structures the top measurement of which is:

- a. 30 metres or more above ground level - within 30 kilometres of an aerodrome,
or
- b. 45 metres or more above ground level elsewhere.

6. The proposed wind turbines will meet the above definition of tall structure. RAAF AIS has requested that the proponent supply them with location and height details once the final position of the wind turbines have been determined and before construction commences. After construction is complete, the Department of Defence requests that the proponent provide RAAF AIS with "as constructed" details. RAAF AIS has a web site with a Vertical Obstruction Report Form at www.raafais.gov.au/obstr_form.htm which can be used to enter the location and height details of tall structures.

7. Information on tall structures and any queries in regard to the database should be directed to:

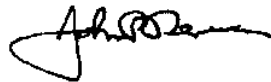
Aeronautical Data Officer
RAAF AIS (VBM-M2)
Victoria Barracks
St Kilda Road
Southbank Vic 3006

Tel: (03) 9282 6400 Fax: (03) 9282 6695

Email: ais.charting@defence.gov.au

8. The Department of Defence has no objection to the proposed wind farm subject to the conditions stated at paragraphs 4 and 6. Please direct any questions to Mr Gary Lee on telephone (02) 6266 8187.


Yours sincerely



John Kerwan
Director Land Planning & Spatial Information
BP3-1-B103
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

29 October 2007

cc. Regional Manager DS-ACT/SNWS
RAAF AIS (Attention: Mr Ian Drayton)
Airfield Siting and Test Engineer GTESPO



EXPERIENCED HANDS WORKING FOR HUME

19 November 2007

Mr Simon Davey
EPURON Pty Ltd.,
Level 11, 75 Miller Street
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Dear Mr Davey,

Thank you for the copy of your November newsletter and information on the Gullen Range Wind Farm project.

I thank you for keeping me informed and would be interested in the feedback from the Information Day/Open House to be held on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely,



ALBY SCHULTZ MP
Federal Member for Hume

AJS:SB

EPURON PTY LTD
Suite 104, 349 Pacific Hwy,
NORTH SYDNEY, NSW 2060
Ph 02 9922 7771
Fax 02 9922 6645

Mr. Bruce McDonald
Manager, Operational Communications
Rural Fire Service
15 Carter St,
Homebush Bay, NSW 2127
4 September 2007

Re: RFS communication links in the vicinity of the Gullen Range Wind Farm

Dear Mr. McDonald,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to meet with members of your team, Messrs. Kirk and Rybak, on Tuesday to discuss our proposed Gullen Range wind farm in the context of the existing RFS radio links that cross the area.

Please understand that we appreciate the importance of these communication links to RFS operations and want to ensure that the communications network remains effective and secure. We also appreciate the constructive suggestions from your team to develop a solution that minimises potential conflicts between our project and your communication links.

As discussed during the meeting:

Mt Mary → Goulburn Links

- It is proposed that a single microwave link (1xE1 HSB) between Mt Mary and Mt Grey (Goulburn) will replace the existing three UHF links from Mt Mary to Goulburn.
- RFS will undertake preliminary design work (at their cost) for the new link and provide EPURON the required frequency and exclusion zone around the new link along with an estimated cost for the link hardware and installation.
- EPURON confirms the commitment to cover the cost of the microwave link engineering, supply and installation should the proposed Gullen wind project proceed. The work would be undertaken by existing RFS or RFS approved contractors.
- It is expected that a new steel tower will be required at Mt Mary to support the new microwave dish as the existing wooden pole is unlikely to be structurally adequate for a microwave dish. Based on our discussion, the expectation is that this is a 30m tower or similar.
- Should the Gullen Range wind project proceed, EPURON confirms that it will cover the cost of the supply and installation of a new steel tower at Mt Mary, to replace the existing facility. Our understanding, based on our discussion, is that existing RFS contractors or RFS approved contractors would undertake the works.

Mt Mary → Red Ground Link

- The existing UHF link between Mt Mary and Red Ground passes approximately 1km from turbines at a distance of 14.5km from Mt Mary. This is near the limit of possible interference from wind turbines on the radio link.


- EPURON confirms that it will take the necessary corrective action should there be interference experienced on the link following the installation of turbines. It is contemplated that a new high gain antenna, such as a gridpack installed on the new steel tower, may be a suitable solution.

We would appreciate confirmation of your agreement to these points.

On this basis, we will proceed with our project planning taking into account the exclusion zone around the new microwave link to Goulburn and we will include the agreed points in this letter into our Statement of Commitments submitted to the Department of Planning. These will ultimately become conditions of the Development Consent, if the project is approved.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 9922 7771 if you would like to clarify or discuss any of this in greater detail.

Sincerely,



SIMON DAVEY
PROJECT MANAGER

All communications to be addressed to:

Headquarters
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Mail Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Telephone: (02) 8741 5555
e-mail: roman.rybak@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Headquarters
NSW Rural Fire Service
15 Carter Street
HOMEBUSH BAY NSW 2127

Facsimile: (02) 8741 5550



Simon Davey
Epuron Pty Ltd
Suite 104, 349 Pacific Hwy
NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2060

Your Ref:
Our Ref: MOC 08 003
OCF / 0201

22 January 2008

Dear Mr Davey

RE: RFS COMMUNICATION LINKS IN THE VICINITY OF THE GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM

With reference to your earlier correspondence of 4 September 2007 under the above heading following our meeting with your colleagues and yourself.

This is to confirm in-principle, RFS's agreement to the points outlined in your correspondence to retain effective and secure communications between Mt Mary and Goulburn as well as between Mt Mary and the Red Ground radio site without adversely affecting the installation of the Gullen Range Wind Farm.

Mt Mary to Goulburn

We have carried out some preliminary investigation and design work for these systems and have had discussions with two microwave system suppliers, Kordia and Wave1. Preliminary quotes were obtained from these suppliers and we can now advise reasonably accurate costs for installing these links.

Initial discussions with the suppliers were for a 2 hop microwave system, incorporating a passive repeater at Mt Gray. Although such a configuration is technically feasible and operationally desirable, ACMA licensing conditions preclude this arrangement. The supplier's alternative solution was to quote for a 2 hop system using an active repeater at Mt Gray. However, we prefer to retain the existing Mt Gray to Goulburn hop since it would not be affected by the proposed Wind Farm and only install microwave across the Mt Mary to Mt Gray portion.

Based on the quotations provided to us to date, the cost of an unprotected 8GHz microwave link between Mt Mary and Mt Gray will be of the order of \$70K, including multiplexing equipment. I understand that Epuron will arrange to erect a 30m tower at Mt Mary of sufficient strength to accommodate the required parabolic dish as well as

the other antennas currently mounted on the existing wooden pole and cover the cost of transferring the services to the new tower.

Note that the owners of the Mt Gray tower will probably require a stress check to confirm that the solid dish will not exceed the towers wind loading capabilities. In addition, recent legislation requires a site radiation folder to be prepared or updated for all radio sites. The approximate cost of a tower stress check is of the order of \$2K to \$3K and an update to a site radiation folder would be about \$1K.

Total cost of this component is estimated at around \$95K, not including the 30m tower and its erection.

Mt Mary to Red Ground

According to our desktop assessment, this link may be only marginally affected by wind turbines. We feel that the best course of action for this link is to closely monitor its performance during the construction and commissioning of the turbines. If the link's performance deteriorates during the period of the turbine's construction, steps will be taken to upgrade the existing yagi antennas with high gain Gridpaks to minimise the effects of multipath reflections. In the remote possibility that the Gridpaks do not alleviate the problem and it is felt by the users that the interference is unacceptable, consideration will need to be given to replacing this hop with 8GHz microwave as well.

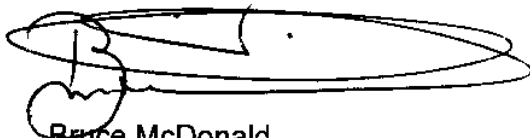
As mentioned for the Mt Gray tower, the Red Ground tower will probably require a stress check if larger antennas need to be installed.

The cost of Gridpak antennas and associated stress checks would be of the order of \$12K, however tower strengthening at Red Ground could be a significant additional cost if this were to proceed.

Note that the Mt Mary radio site is owned by Goulburn Council. The RFS can negotiate with Council in regard to the necessary approvals and agreements if this project does proceed.

I trust that this response is adequate for you to progress your planning.

Yours sincerely



Bruce McDonald
Manager,
Operational Communications

Hon Duncan Gay MLC

Member of the Nationals
Member of the Federal Parliament
Member of the NSW Parliament



20th November 2007

The Project Manager
EPURON
Level 11, 75 Miller St
NORTH SYDNEY
NSW 2145

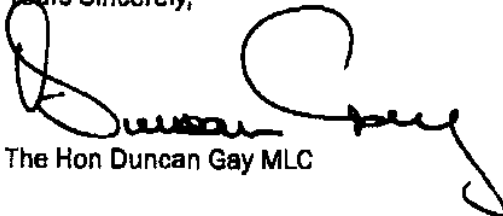
Dear Mr Davey,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Gullen Range Wind Farm and your kind invitation to attend the Information Day.

I am not able to attend the Information Day/Open House on Wednesday the 21st November 2007. Please note, I am not one of the community who have shown 'Strong levels of support' as referred to in your letter.

The offer of further information on this project would be appreciated. I would be interested in the questions asked and the results of the phone survey of residents in the area.

Yours Sincerely,




The Hon Duncan Gay MLC



Shadow Minister for Roads, Ports and Waterways

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: 02 9230 2329 Facsimile: 02 9230 7923
Email: duncan.gay@parliament.nsw.gov.au
www.duncan.gay.com



Department of Lands

*Land Administration & Management
Property & Spatial Information*

Epuron Pty Ltd
349 Pacific Highway
NORTH SYDNEY NSW
2060

Department of Lands
PO Box 309, Nowra, 2541

Phone: 4428 9127
Fax: 4421 2172

www.lands.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Andrew Durran Our Ref: 07/3238
Your Ref: 07_0118

23 October 2007

Dear Sir

Re: Notification of Development and/or Subdivision Application –

The proposal has been considered and the Department has no objection in principal to the lodgement of the Development Application.

It is stressed that the issuing of this letter should not be regarded as the Department's approval of the development nor its consent to occupy the land prior to determination.

It is the proponents' responsibility to ensure that they obtain and adhere to all other agencies legislative requirements in regard to this application.

The following advice has been tendered by John Daunt, Team Leader Land Administration to the consultants and proponents, specifically Ms Brooke Marshall (NGH Environmental) and Mr Rodger Ubrihien (Duo Designs – Traffic investigations and road/track design). This includes, but may not be limited to the following upon further review of proposed plans by Crown Lands Division at a later date:

1. The infrastructure works that are to be located on the Crown roads will require the consent of this Department in accordance with Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993;
2. In accordance with Section 139 of the Act, and from precedents set by similar projects, this consent will most likely be provided by means of a licence for which an annual rental will be payable;
3. Any works to be located on Crown roads shall be installed or constructed so that they do not impede any current or future public use of the road;
4. This Department may have to provide "owner's consent" to lodge the DA if some works are to be located on Crown roads;
5. The Department does not favour the formation of tracks on Crown road reserves particularly when in their current state they have not been formed. The proponent should therefore not assume that because a Crown road exists (on paper) that it should be the preferred route for the formation of an access track. It is likely that



- better tracks can be formed with better alignment and less environmental impact if they are located on freehold land by way of easement; and
6. Under the Crown Land Reforms the Department has a program to close and sell unnecessary Crown roads.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter you may contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Merinuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Grant Merinuk
Team Leader Environment
Land Management, Nowra
Crown Lands Division
NSW Dept of Lands



Ref: 07X011 - DW
(in reply please quote)

21 NOV 2007

Mr S Davey
Epuron Pty Ltd
Level 11, 75 Miller Street
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Dear Mr Davey,

Thank you for your recent letter in which you provide me with a copy of your recent newsletter and inform me of the Open House day at the Grabben Gullen Public Hall for the Grabben Range Wind Farm that you are holding on 21 November.

With reference to the phone survey that you conducted, I would appreciate your sending me a copy of the report. I would also appreciate your advice as to how many of the respondents to this phone survey were located within the 5-kilometre radius of the proposed development.

Thank you for keeping me informed of developments in this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katrina Hodgkinson".

KATRINA HODGKINSON MP

Member for Burrinjuck
Shadow Minister for Community Services
Shadow Minister for Families
Shadow Minister for Child Safety

133 Comur Street (PO Box 600) Yass NSW 2582

AUSTRALIA

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