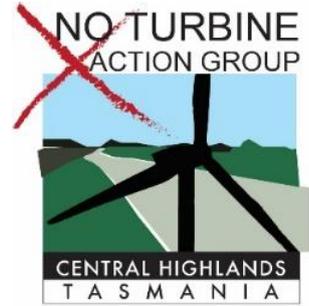


NO COMMUNITY LICENCE FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WIND FARM

Community responses to both Information Meetings held by Epuron in Bothwell, 12th, and Miena 13th February, sent a clear and unequivocal message to the developer that the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm proposal is not wanted and is in the wrong place. About 100 people attended Miena and about 20 gathered at Bothwell.



The revised plan for fifty (50) turbines, 240m tall (three times the height of Wrest Point Casino) and covering 10,000ha next to the Highland Lakes Road in Tasmania's Central Highlands has no social licence.

"The proponent (Epuron) knows it has no social licence for St Patricks Plains Wind Farm. There was overwhelming opposition to the wind farm at both meetings," David Ridley, Chair of the No Turbine Action Group (NTAG) said.

"It is the wrong place because the wind farm borders gateway roads into the Central Highlands. It is the wrong place because there would be an industrial sub-division located in one of the most unique visual and biodiverse landscapes in Australia. The area is a biodiversity hotspot with a high Irreplaceability Index within a mixture of alpine and sub-alpine elements. It has 18 National or State endangered/threatened flora and is home to over eight endangered/threatened fauna such as Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Tasmanian devil. It is in the wrong place because the significant cultural and heritage values of the area would be severely compromised."

"The Miena meeting also saw a dramatic video showing the turbines are so tall they will be seen from Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Areas, including Mount Anne, Walls of Jerusalem and possibly from the top of Mt Wellington." The video is available on www.noturbineactiongroup.org

"Those at the meeting expressed concern not only about skyline and visual impacts, but also about noise and the small size of buffers around Eagle nests with turbines towering more than 200 metres above. The project may not be viable without a taxpayer-funded Marinus cable to the Mainland. It generates power Tasmania doesn't need".

"Under questioning from the floor, it came to light that the noise plan displayed by Epuron could not be relied upon – turbines used for Epuron's modelling may not be the turbines installed when the wind farm is on-sold and built by investors. The noise data used by Epuron was also requested so it could be independently reviewed."

"There was no confidence in the noise assessments undertaken by Epuron" Mr Ridley said.

"This revised plan has not addressed concerns previously raised by the community. Turbines will be seen and heard at Penstock Lagoon (an international fly-fishing destination); a new turbine was placed only 250m from the A5 highway at the Steppes even though there are visual and safety concerns; and some turbines have been moved closer to sensitive Wedge-tailed Eagle nest sites rather than further away.

"Current best practice has been ignored in the revised plan".

The meeting sent a clear signal to Epuron – there are too many turbines, too high and too close. It is in the wrong place and the uniqueness of the Central Highlands would be lost." Mr Ridley said.

The better option would be to develop the A5 Highway as 'The Great Highlands Road', like the Great Ocean Road and keep it turbine free."