



MEDIA RELEASE – James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – Tuesday 14th May 2013

WIND TURBINES – EPURON SPINNING INTO A PUBLIC RELATIONS DISASTER

“In what must rate as one of the most inadequate public relations exercises yet seen in the bleak landscape of the wind turbine debate, Epuron’s Andrew Wilson plumbed a new depth of insensitivity to residents’ concerns with his statement to the ‘Yass Tribune’ of last Friday 10th May that ‘the specific leanings of residents (whether they are for or against wind farms) cannot be used to inform good decisions about wind farm development either by Epuron or the planning authorities’.

This says it all – residents and their views are irrelevant to wind turbine developers such as Epuron. Corporations and government bureaucracies will tell residents what is good for them. Occasionally, if they are very, very lucky, the ‘powers that be’ might massage their development to quieten some residents - but there is absolutely no option on the table to stop the proposed development entirely. If you have any other issues, then the message is ‘look it up on our website’. The arrogance of this position is appalling.” said James Harker-Mortlock, independent candidate for Hume, today.

“I remain extremely concerned that the local community has not been fully informed about the significant impact that the potential of the simultaneous development of multiple turbine farms will have upon the district – not only in the short term by way of demands upon local infrastructure, such as roads, but also long term in regard to general amenity of life and the maintenance of the ethos of the community. I am not convinced that there are enough protections in place for potential hosts in their contracts with developers. I know that there is no concern shown by developers for neighbouring properties. In addition, there appears to be an underlying assumption by the developers that the community will somehow or another just have to accept the impact of the massive changes which their developments will bring without any real compensation or any concern by either the developers themselves or the bureaucracies which are allowing the developments to occur. Far from protecting the community, the bureaucracy appears to have become part of the process of exploitation of the community, including potential hosts, by the developers. It appears that the developers appear to have forgotten that if they wish their developments to succeed, they must bring the community with them. Antagonism towards the community and its concerns will end only in failure.

Where are the much vaunted NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms ? The last reference I can find is to the public meetings and call for submissions (approximately 500 lodged) in February 2012. The NSW State Government has dropped the ball entirely on this. I remain concerned that whatever does finally emanate from the NSW Government will be just a ‘guideline’ rather than enforceable legislation. Protection of the rights of all parties – hosts, neighbours and the general community – will be assured only through legislation and regulation, not by a statement of hope and wishful thinking.

And what are the Liberal and Labor political duopoly doing about it all? Nothing. Care factor for rural people? Zero. As per usual.”

ENDS

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