

22 November 2022

Proposed Farmworker Accommodation on Boundary of Wind Farm

As the proponent of the Mumblin Wind Farm we believe it is important to clarify our ongoing position in relation to a recent decision by Corangamite Shire Council to grant a permit for farmworker accommodation on land adjoining the proposed wind farm.

The Mumblin Wind Farm will consist of nine wind turbine generators with a combined capacity of approximately 54 MW and will be located on Curdies – Leichfield Road in Ecklin South, Victoria. A planning application for the proposed wind farm has been lodged for this project with the Minister for Planning, in accordance with the requirements of the Corangamite Planning Scheme

On 25 October this year, the Corangamite Shire Council voted to grant a permit for farmworker accommodation on land adjoining the proposed wind farm. The location of the farmworker accommodation is as close as possible to the boundary of the wind farm.

Late last year the Victorian Government introduced an amendment to all Victorian planning schemes which, in effect, made it necessary for Councils, when assessing such applications, to consider the potential effects of proposed wind farms on proposed farmworker accommodation prior to issuing a permit.

RE Future has previously stated that it has no objection to neighbours of any of its wind farm projects building farmworker accommodation in the vicinity of our projects. This remains our position.

However, given that the farmworker accommodation has been placed as close as possible to the wind farm, RE Future made a submission to Council requesting it to take into consideration the effect, if any, the wind farm could have on the farmworker accommodation, and to have that situation formally acknowledged. Additionally, RE Future offered to adjust the position of wind turbines and to cover the cost of a slight movement of the proposed accommodation to ensure a 1 km separation from the house.

RE Future believes the decision of the Council to grant a permit against the advice of the Council's planning department, without imposing any compromise relocation and without ensuring there is acknowledgement and acceptance of the close proximity of proposed turbines is contrary to orderly land use planning and in no-one's interest. The decision to grant the permit has created ongoing uncertainty well into the future for both the proponent of the farmworker accommodation and the proponent of the wind farm.

In order to resolve the uncertainty that the Council's decision has created, RE Future has decided to apply to VCAT to have the decision reviewed.

RE Future will continue to look for a workable compromise in good faith so that there can be certainty for the neighbouring farmworker accommodation, and for the potential wind farm.

If you would like to discuss this situation in any way or would like further information about this issue or the wind farm please feel free to contact me on 0498 810 177, or via email at info@mumblinwindfarm.com.au.

Yours faithfully

David C G Shapero
Managing Director