

From: "council@circularhead.tas.gov.au" <council@circularhead.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thu, 30 Nov 2023 15:24:37 +1100
To: "Circular Head Council" <council@circularhead.tas.gov.au>
Attachments: Submission to New Scenic Protected Areas LPS JH CH comments
30.11.23.docxFinal.docx

CAUTION: This email comes from an external organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Customer Feedback Form

Firstname: John Hammond
Surname: Hammond
Email: john@hammondfarms.com.au
Mobile: +61428577976
Home phone:
Work phone:
Address line 1: 2 Melaleuca Drive
Address line 2:
Postcode: 7321
Suburb: HELLYER
Your comments: Please see my attached submission to the New Scenic Protected Areas
Amendment to the LPS. Please email confirmation that you have received it.
Regards, John Hammond
How would you like Council to contact you?: Email
Attach File 1: Submission to New Scenic Protected Areas LPS JH CH comments
30.11.23.docxFinal.docx, type application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document, 636.6 KB
Attach File 2: No file uploaded

Submission to the Circular Head Council

Date: 30-11-2023

Topic: The Draft New Scenic Protected Areas Amendments to the LPS

Author: John Cameron Hammond

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft New Scenic Protected Areas Amendments (NSPAA) to the LPS for the Circular Head Municipality.

I have some serious concerns for how this amendment was pushed forward by the anti-wind farm lobby groups and individuals that are opposed to wind farms development in the NW REZ which of course includes not only the municipality of Circular Head but also Waratah/Wynyard. We fail to see how there is any scientific or substantial community-based support for this NSPAA.

In our Tasmanian society, we seem very willing to put more restrictions over freehold land without ever removing them in the future or attempting to mitigate their negative economic or social impacts on the landowners and community. Rarely are these restrictive proposals initiated by the affected landowners, but more often by community members that have no financial or historical investment in the nominated areas.

Four groups have been most active over the last six years in lobbying against the Robbins Island and the Western Plains Wind Farm projects. We respect their right to have the freedom to voice their opinion, but the way in which they have behaved and the messages propagated have been done in a deceptive and misleading way and certainly not based on the scientific and environmental evidence.

Those groups are:

- a. The Bob Brown Foundation (BBF)
- b. Circular Head Coastal Awareness Group (CHCAN)
- c. Respect Stanley Peninsula – No Wind Turbines Group
- d. Birds Australia (Tasmania)

About five years ago, Scott Jordan of the BBF in early submissions to the CH Council, pushed scenic protection for coastal areas with the intent of stopping the Robbins Island and Western Plains Wind and any other potential wind farms. The other three groups were also adopting this tactic along with other direct actions against wind farm projects in the area.

Unfortunately, these minority activist groups have influenced some of the CH Council councillors to move and pass a motion to engage consultants to draft a scenic values and areas report for Circular Head. This report was drafted by external consultants and was eventually voted on and accepted by the CH Council as the Draft Scenic Protected Areas Amendments to the LPS. (For the Circular Head Municipality)

This is the first draft scenic values/areas report to be done and council adopted by any of the 29 Tasmanian councils, so this is a groundbreaking exercise and fraught with unknown and potentially unintended consequences.

We, the Hammond family, as a significant landowner in one of the newly proposed scenic protected areas were not provided with the opportunity to discuss this proposal by the consultants who drafted the report, even though they promised to consult with land owners. The question is how could the NSPAA be drafted and have any creditability without the consultants discussing NSPAA in detail with the potentially affected landowners and wider community?

To say that we are significantly affected by the NSPAA is an understatement. We hold freehold title to Robbins and Walker Islands as well as a property at Montagu that borders Robbins Passage. Total area of Hammond Family land ownership is 12,200 hectares in the new “coastal islands protected area”. We are significant landowners in the nominated NSPAA area and have not been consulted.

Not only the offshore islands but also the intertidal channel networks are included in this new scenic protection area. This again is driven by the anti-wind farm activists who are trying to stop a bridge to connect Robbins Island to Robbins Island Road at West Montagu and a new jetty on the east side of Robbins Island for wind farm component delivery by ship and barge.

The bridge is a low-profile design, with the one navigational channel spanned by the bridge will not impede travel for recreational boats as they have access underneath it.

The bridge is part of the DA for the Robbins Island Wind Project and is a key piece of project infrastructure as the power cables connecting the wind turbines on Robbins Island to the 220kv transmission line will be laid in the bridge structure.

Why is the addition of temporary wind turbines being highlighted as a detriment to the scenic values of an area? Where is the community or scientific evidence to support this proposition?

The two wind farms at Woolnorth, “Studland Bay and Bluff Hill”, in our view, add to the scenic value of what would be an unremarkable ridge line when viewed from the east as the land-based views are. We note that this area has been excluded from the NSPAA.

There is a high acceptance of the Woolnorth wind farms which were erected in 2002-2008 (approx.) with no talk of dislike or objections to them in the local community. In fact, Woolnorth Wind Farms Tours operate a very successful tourism business guiding visitors and tourists to the wind farms, so they are a proven draw card for tourism in the area with benefits to the wider community.

In many parts of the world, especially Europe, the USA, China, and many other countries, they are getting on with the job of installing renewable wind and solar to de-carbonise their economies. The density of wind farms in Europe is impressively staggering. In Australia we are so far behind the installation of renewables that we are really playing catch up due to decades of having no reliable federal energy policy.

From a wind turbine visuals perspective, why is it ok in these major renewable installing countries to have wind turbines in their landscapes and it is not ok in Circular Head?

Why is the council trying to make development harder and sink any opportunity for growth? We submit that “ecotourism” is not the answer and will not happen without something to draw people to the area. We believe the Circular Head area is a wonderful and beautiful place, but so are many other parts of Tasmania and these parts are more accessible.

The other point that the Circular Head Council should have considered, is that wind farms will not permanently alter or degrade the landscape character. Wind farms are not a permanent long-term solution for the world's energy solutions. They are a cost effective, currently deployable energy generation technology that is a gap filler in the energy transition away from fossil fuels with an expected operational life of 25-30 years.

There is a lot of work being done on fusion power, (the fusing of Hydrogen atoms to form Helium with a resultant release of huge amounts of energy – the same process as powers our sun) and when they can work out how to contain the heat from these plasma reactions, then the world will have an unlimited amount of emissions free power for electricity generation. 2050 is proposed as a possible date for a successful break through. It might not be fusion power that is the solution, but the human race has an amazing capacity to keep improving technology and the introduction of super computer AI will assist this progress.

As wind farms come to the end of their working life, they will be decommissioned, disassembled, with major components recycled, and the landscape rehabilitated without any detrimental effect.

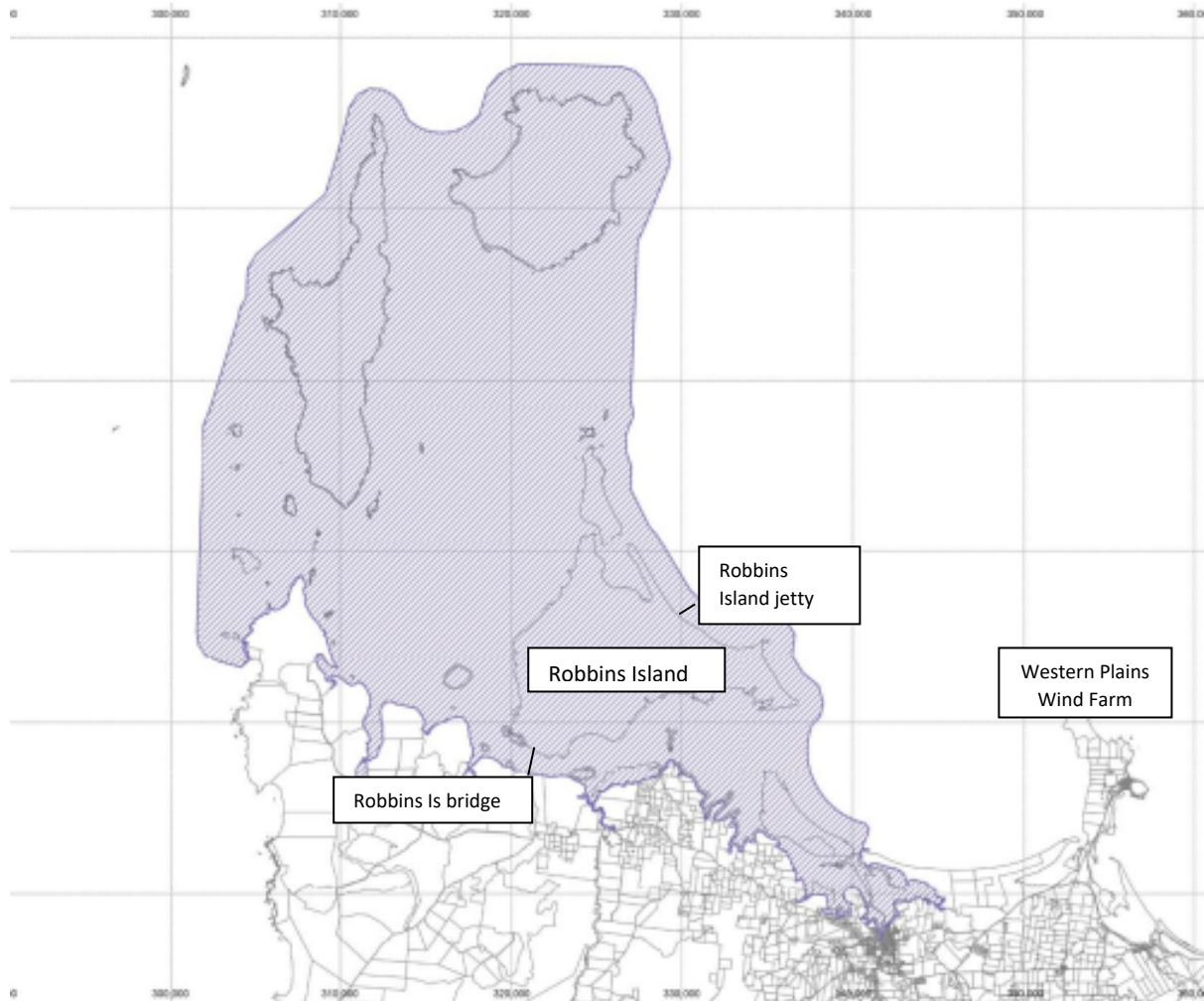
In conclusion, it is irresponsible of planners, councils, and regulators if wind turbines are determined to be a negative impact on scenic landscapes and/or determined that they permanently alter or degrade landscape values. To impose another restriction on private freehold land without consultation and to the potential economic detriment of those landowners seems to be an unfair and dictatorial process. The potential positive impact of economic development for the Circular Head Community should not be discounted or subdued in favour of "visual impacts that would permanently alter or degrade its landscape character". Who is the arbiter of such an evaluation and on what grounds would these impacts be assessed?

The NSPAA has not been adequately thought through or background research done to justify its implementation. We request that the NSPAA be withdrawn and if to be reintroduce, it is done after significant consultation with affected landowners and community members.

Wind farms should be embraced by local communities and applauded as projects that are helping to mitigate the effects of worldwide climate change and provide significant economic benefit to the people in those councils.

DRAFT PLANNING AMENDMENT - PSA 2023/1

Map 3. Scenic Protection code overlays in Coastal Estuaries and Islands



Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Circular Head Local Provisions Shedule
Scenic Protection Code - Coastal Estruaries and Islands



CIR-C8.1.3	Coastal Estuaries and Islands	<p>The SPA includes the coastline from koindrim/the Doughboys in the west to the Thousand Acre Farm where it abuts the Stanley Scenic Protection Area including all of the coastal foreshore zoned Environmental Management or Open Space and offshore islands/islets. The SPA excludes Smithton.</p> <p>The SPA includes the coastal estuaries such as Welcome Inlet, Boullanger Bay, Swan Bay, Robbins Passage, Big Bay, Acton Bay, Duck Bay. The islands include Trefoil, The Doughboys, Harbour Islets, Hunter, Three Hummock, Walker, Robbins, Perkins and many other numerous small islands and islets.</p>	<p>The landscape character is distinguished by its rocky coastal shores, headlands and prominences, protected coves with sandy beaches and expansive tidal plains all backed by stands of mixed native vegetation or edged by salt marsh. On the larger islands (e.g., Robbins Island), areas of gently rolling topography inland from the coast have been cleared for agriculture.</p> <p>Views are from the land and sea to numerous offshore features and expansive tidal estuaries/passages from a limited number of public open spaces, coastal camping areas, scenic lookouts and roads. Viewing from land to the outermost of the islands is limited given distance and extent of private freehold land.</p> <p>The scenic values are viewed by marine and nature-based tour operators (including light aircraft) and commercial and recreational fishing vessels and private yachts. Community feedback and social media speak to the strong cultural heritage (Aboriginal and European), social and recreational connections associated with the islands.</p>	<p>To ensure the visual composition of the Coastal Estuaries and Islands SPA is retained and protected from visual impacts that would permanently alter or degrade its landscape character.</p> <p>To manage the Coastal Estuaries and Islands SPA landscape as viewed from publicly sensitive viewpoints such that the established landscape character is retained, and visual impacts are avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>To protect the sense of remoteness of the wild coast and offshore features of the area as a locale of significant scenic, cultural and social interest.</p> <p>To minimise potential visual impact of new development or works on scenic values.</p>
------------	-------------------------------	---	--	---