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**From:** Graham Bauer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 October 2024 9:27 PM  
**To:** TPC Enquiry  
**Subject:** "OBJECTIONS TO MAJOR PROJECT : BELL BAY WIND FARM"



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BELL BAY WIND FARM  
Notes

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**From:** Graham Bauer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 October 2024 1:55 PM  
**To:** TPC Enquiry  
**Subject:** Re: Bell Bay Wind Farm Proposal

# OBJECTIONS TO MAJOR PROJECT : BELL BAY WIND FARM

Graham Bauer and Timothy Walker

We wish to register our objections to the above Major Project.

## 1. Scale of Project and Effect on the Area

The scale of this project is huge: turbines almost the height of the Eiffel Tower, transmission lines of similar scale and related buildings such as battery storage which will completely dominate a significant area between Bell Buoy Beach and Beechford.

It will completely change the character of the area and destroy its amenity.

Turbines may be built in the area immediately adjacent to the coastline destroying some of the most beautiful coastal areas in Tasmania.

Other areas are designated for quarrying which will mean blasting, dust associated with quarrying operations and huge increases in traffic on Soldiers Settlement Road.

What is now an area designated as agricultural land will be transformed into an industrial precinct. Have these changes in the designated land use for the area been approved by local and state government?

Residents of Beechford and nearby landowners will suffer huge direct effects associated with the construction phase of the project, such as noise and dust pollution but also long-term serious consequences of noise pollution associated with the behemoth turbines. They will also experience dramatic declines in the value of their real estate. Indeed houses in the area may well become unsaleable.

There are well documented examples of adverse health effects of these turbines on local residents from overseas, especially in the US and continental Europe. These issues do not appear to have figured in the decision to grant major project status to this proposal nor do there appear to be any requirements proposed by the government to seriously address let alone minimise adverse health effects of the project.

## 2. Impact on Plant and Animal Life in the Project Area

The area designated for the project is at the interface of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and has a rich diversity of plant and animal life. Plant communities will be directly and catastrophically affected by land clearing for the project, which will be extensive.

Loss of vegetation will directly affect healthy populations of mammals found in the region, including a healthy population of endangered and vulnerable Tasmanian Devils and quolls. There are significant numbers of wombats in the area as well as diverse reptilian populations including some frog species which are classified as endangered.

The most worrying effect of the project will be the direct threat of the turbines to endangered wedge-tailed and sea eagles. Both are present in the area and the wedge-tailed eagles have nests in the coastal zone.

A variety of shore birds, including resident and migratory species will also be under direct threat from the turbines as they have in other areas of Tasmania where wind farms have been established. This will become yet another area where localised extinctions will have been facilitated by ill-considered projects.

## 3. Environmental and other Economic Costs

There are huge environmental costs associated with the manufacture of turbines (inevitably most components will probably come from China - nil local input) and the infrastructure necessary to support them. We understand each turbine will require a concrete pad in excess of 500 cubic metres. In addition steel is required for reinforcing pads, for pylons and infrastructure such as power lines. Concrete and steel involve generating huge quantities of carbon dioxide and no attempt is made to obtain a true measure of the real environmental advantage - if any - of constructing such a wind farm.

There are also huge costs associated with remediating construction sites at the end of the viable life of these projects. The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission has estimated that the cost of decommissioning turbines is between \$400,000 - \$600,000 each. There is very little attention given to how funds are to be extracted from the developers to meet these decommissioning costs. Our concern is that companies will default on their obligations and the taxpayer will be left to foot the huge costs involved - yet again.

## 4. Community Benefits

We can see little real local benefit flowing from this project. Construction will inevitably require a specialist labour force and given the shortage of skilled tradesmen in Tasmania, it seems inevitable that labour will be sourced from interstate or overseas.

There is no mention of specialist training programmes which might benefit a local labour force.

Operation of the plant is likely to involve minimal staffing levels and maybe caretaker staff might be recruited locally.

The project is designed to feed electricity into the national grid via undersea cabling and it will not result in cheaper electricity for Tasmanians.

Local residents lose a beautiful area of unspoilt coastline, see dramatic falls in the values of their properties, face serious health risks from the noise of wind turbines and probably end up paying more for electricity anyway. And the vast amount of money generated by the project, fed by government subsidies for wind energy and paid for by local taxpayers will flow overseas to the major Gulf State investors and the teachers of Ontario. It seems a ridiculously high price to pay for virtually no benefit.

## 5. Conclusion

This project has so many downsides which involve adverse outcomes and it is difficult to enumerate many benefits. There may well be huge economic benefits but they come on the backs of taxpayers who are providing huge subsidies to make the project viable. Take away the subsidies and the investors will walk away. Profits which flow from the project will, in the first instance, flow to foreign investors who are bankrolling the project. There are virtually no benefits to local residents and a huge cost involved in the destruction of a beautiful environment which becomes increasingly valuable for its aesthetic appeal as such areas become increasingly rare. The huge adverse health impact of this project on local residents is not considered in this proposal but overseas experience indicates it is real and potentially devastating effect for individuals directly exposed to these turbines. At the end of the life of this project, someone is going to face the huge cost of remediation. Large international investors are much smarter than provincial governments and devise clever and effective ways of avoiding their contractual obligations. If this project runs true to form the people of Tasmania are going to face huge costs removing tens of thousands of tons of reinforced concrete, wasted turbine components, toxic residues and the like from this site. Surely we can tackle the problems of carbon emissions in a more intelligent, creative and less damaging way that protects rather than destroys some of the most valuable assets we possess in this state. No one wants to visit a land peppered with ugly turbines.

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