

Presentation to YV Council Meeting

Wednesday 27th June 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you again today.

Firstly, I'd like to thank Councillors Frost, Turner and Reid for making the time to visit the Crookwell Wind Farm yesterday. I understand the event was called on very short notice and it wasn't possible for other councillors to make it. For your benefit, I'd like to recap some of the relevant information.

We heard first from the Project Manager overseeing civil construction. Of their total project budget, 38% was spent in the local and ACT region. Of this, \$12,366,742.44 was spent in the Crookwell/Goulburn/Marulan area with at least 12 local businesses. The Gunning fencing contractor sourced all his steel from MA Steel here in Yass - so Yass' economy is already benefiting from wind farm construction.

To give you a sense of what this means for Yass, Crookwell II is a 28 turbine project and has poured **\$12.4 million** into the local economy. The four permitted projects in Yass Valley equate to around 250 turbines, which suggests something in the order of **\$107 million** will go into Yass Valley's local economy, just from the civil construction component, if all these projects proceed.

Next we heard in person from three local small business operators:

1. Justin Mooney from Tutt Bryant Hire in Goulburn told of how wind and solar projects allow them to employ 13 - 15 people during construction, and on maintenance throughout the 25 year operational phase.
2. Nic Clancy's Gunning based farm contracting business now employs 10 staff, including many young people, doing fencing, weed spraying and labour hire, predominantly for wind and solar projects. The opportunity for locals to learn workplace safety from the big civil companies brings valuable skills into the local workforce.

Nic also does weed control on my colleague, Charlie Prell's, farm, paid for by turbine host payments.

3. Over 30 years, Wayne Rabjohns has built up the Goulburn, Best Western from a 2½ star, 20 room motel to a 4½ star, 60 room establishment, largely on the back of big infrastructure projects. Initially, it was the highway bypass workers but for the last ten years, wind and solar farms have been the mainstay. In the current six months, he's booked \$191,000 in income just from GE for accomodation for their workforce.

Importantly, he's also booked \$36,000 for accomodation for **existing** wind farm

projects. So hosting wind farms in your area provides economic value, each year for the 25 year life of the project.

It goes without saying that clean energy from wind farms brings huge environmental benefits and this is in line with Yass Valley Council policies and it's membership of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership.

But the economic boost to Yass Valley from wind farms is on a transformational scale and can happily co-exist with the region's other economic drivers.

The Wind Farm Motion Options refer consistently to ensuring amenity for Yass Valley residents and this is appropriate. However, this must be balanced against what wind farms can do for local jobs and businesses and ratepayers.

I would like to argue that Wind Farm Motion Option 1 be adopted, but with the economic benefits being one of the items taken into account.

Thank you.