

From: "Rosemarie Watts" <coolindowns09@gmail.com>
Sent: Thu, 15 Feb 2024 06:20:46 +1000
To: "Hinchinbrook Shire Council" <council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au>; "CEO" <CEO@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au>
Subject: I am sharing 'MFEP submission 2' with you
Attachments: MFEP submission 2.pdf
Categories: Emma C;CRM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from coolindowns09@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

Please find attached my submission against the Mt Fox Energy Park Battery Energy Storage System development application #MCU23/0005. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns on 0417729304 or coolindowns09@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Rosemarie Watts

MT FOX ENERGY PARK (MFEP)

APPLICATION MCU 23/0005, RC23/0016, OPW23/007 DEVELOPMENT

Council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au

FOR ATTENTION ALL COUNCILLORS

Name; Rosemarie Ann Watts

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Email; coolindowns09@gmail.com

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SUBMISSION -OBJECTION- AGAINST PROPOSED APPLICATIONS MT FOX ENERGY PARK- MCU23/0005. MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE- BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY

The rationale for objection is set out below;

MCU23/0005 (MFEP) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development Application (DA)

INTRODUCTION

As a long term resident of Mt Fox and a direct neighbour to lot 18 wu6 and lot 57 sp237064 owned by Lollo Investments Pty Ltd, owner of Mount Fox Energy Park Battery Energy Storage System. I continue to own and live at Coolindowns, 191 Knuckledown Road, Mt Fox , LOT1 SP217230 and wish to continue living here without any impacts on my intended lifestyle from MFEP or MFEP BESS. I am a closely impacted neighbour to the MFEP BESS. My knowledge of the greater Mt Fox area and watersheds has been gained first hand by living here for 54 years and working and observing the changes to the creeks with the 2 existing power lines as they were built and the maintenance of access roads since.

My reasons for objection are listed below.

- 1. No advice or notification of community consultation, meeting or any other communications have been provided to me on any occasion since noise monitoring was done on my properties in 2020. Another neighbour informed me on the 6th January 2024 of MFEP BESS meeting at the camping grounds on same day. I attended and gained my first learnings of proposed wind turbine**

sites, the BESS and that the “ lithium battery was just like what is in a mobile phone” quote Alexander Graham, Senior Project Manager, TAG Energy. 64 shipping containers of lithium batteries is not comparable to a phone battery. The signage for the DA was not displayed at this meeting and the real extent of the BESS development, potential impacts, and that opportunity to object to this DA existed and submissions needed to be made to Hinchinbrook Shire Council by the 30th January 2024 were not discussed.

I AM A DIRECT NEIGHBOUR AND HAD NO NOTIFICATION OF ANY PREVIOUS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OR MEETINGS AND AS SUCH DID NOT KNOW TO ATTEND.

AT NO TIME HAS ANY SOCIAL LICENSE BEEN GRANTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY BESS BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT WILL BE IMPACTED BY IT.

MFEP HAS FAILED TO CONSULT WITH DIRECT NEIGHBOURS OR THE MT FOX COMMUNITY IN A PROPER MANNER.

2. In the MFEP DA which was supplied in the application material for the MFEP BESS DA,

1.13 that a description of any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with indigenous stakeholders be described, response - no description is given.

1.14 describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under the commonwealth, state, or territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project, response - nil.

1.15 is this action part of a staged development (or component of a larger project? Response - no.

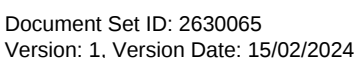
1.16 is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the area? Response - no.

THE MFEP BESS DA APPROVAL WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL OF THESE BE ANSWERED TRUTHFULLY AND THAT ALL CONSULTATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL (including underground and creek and spring water quality testing) AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO ANY WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

MFEP BESS HAS FAILED TO ADHERE TO LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF CODE 23 IN THE WINDFARM AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GUIDANCE.

- I HAVE ATTACHED A MAP FROM QLD GLOBE SHOWING THE DOWNSTREAM AND CLOSE COMMUNITY BUT IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE RESIDENTS AT PENSIONERS PARADE ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE MT FOX COMMUNITY even though I have not been able to fit them on my map. Attachment A. KNUCKLEDOWN STATION, FURNLEA STATION AND ALL MFEP AND MFEP BESS DEVELOPMENTS ARE CENTRAL TO THE MT FOX COMMUNITY, NOT NEAR AS STATED IN THIS APPLICATION.***

Attachment A



Hand-drawn map of the Wilmarie area in Queensland, Australia, showing land parcels, roads, and proposed wind turbine sites. The map includes labels for Wilmarie, Kilclooney, Hidden Valley, and various parks. A large red area is marked 'A' and a smaller red area is marked 'B'. A black line indicates a proposed road or boundary. A green line indicates a proposed power line. A legend in the bottom left corner defines symbols for 'Proposed land use change for wind', 'batter owned land', and 'Previous Rest Energy Parks Wind turbines'. Handwritten notes at the top and bottom indicate 'Rass to Cairns from mission line' and 'Rass to Cairns Major Trans mission line'.

4. Micheal Creek, Yellori Creek and Cockatoo Springs have not been presented in any of the mapping with this DA. Micheal Creek starts in front of Furnlea house and many gullies throughout the MFEP all run into it, before Cockatoo Springs and Yellori Creek join in too. Most of MFEP turbines are in the Micheal Creek catchment as is the BESS.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL OF THESE WATERCOURSES ARE RECOGNISED AND INCLUDED IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACT STUDIES BECAUSE MOST MT FOX RESIDENTS RELY ON WATER FROM THESE CREEKS AND SPRINGS. IT IS MENTIONED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES FOR THE MFEP WIND FARM THAT THE CREEKS ARE SEASONAL AND THIS IS INCORRECT. COCKATOO SPRINGS HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO STOP RUNNING IN LIVING HISTORY, IT RUNS UNDERGROUND LESS THAN 500M FROM THE MFEP BESS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND IS BELIEVED TO SUPPLY THE MANY WATER BORES IN THE AREA. See attachment B.

MFEP HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREEKS, SPRINGS AND GULLIES THAT WILL BE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY WORKS IN THIS DA. ALL RUN OFF FROM THE MFEP TURBINES AND THE MFEP BESS WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT ON THE WATER SUPPLY OF MOST MT FOX RESIDENTS.

5. Thermal runaway is a real threat with lithium batteries catching fire. Lithium batteries are known to readily catch on fire and Tesla's own advice is to let them burn out. Colossal amounts of water is used to cool the battery packs in the vicinity to prevent fire spread to these other battery packs.

IS THERE SUCH THING AS A SMOKELESS FIRE? DO THE BURNING OR BURNT BATTERY PACKS NOT LEAK ANY FLUIDS OR FUMES? MOST MT FOX RESIDENTS LIVE DOWNWIND AND DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MFEP BESS PROPOSED SITE. THERE ARE OTHER SUITABLE SITES FOR A BESS CLOSE TO THE SWITCHING STATION THAT WOULD BE IN OTHER WATERSHEDS AND WIND CORRIDORS THAT WOULD THEN NOT IMPACT ON THE MT FOX COMMUNITY. See attachment C for proposed other sites that would take thermal runaway and noise away into different water and wind valleys.

MFEP HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW A FIRE EVENT IN ANY OR ALL OF THE 264 BATTERY CONTAINERS COULD IMPACT THE COMMUNITY AND FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE VICINITY.

IT MUST ALSO BE NOTED THAT MFEP DOES NOT NEED A BESS, AND THAT THE BESS IS PROPOSED TO BE BUILT BEFORE ANY WIND TURBINES ARE PLANNED TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

- 6. The Mt Fox State School and public camping grounds use water supplied from bores in close proximity to Micheal Creek and Yellori waterholes, which are also downstream from the MFEP BESS.**

MFEP HAS FAILED TO PRESENT THESE PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THEIR MAPPING.

- 7. The Upper Burdekin, Chalumbin, MFEP STAGE 1, MFEP STAGE 2, Kidston Hyrdo/Solar stage 1, 2 and 3, Karma, Kaban, Saint Ronans and other renewable energy sources still being developed and approved are going to supply into the existing switching station and Ross to Cairns transmission line so it's reasonable to expect a larger BESS will be desired.**

APPROVAL OF THIS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION WITH THE INTENTION TO LEASE AREA WOULD ALLOW FOR BESS EXPANSION AND MAKE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL BREACHES HARDER TO TRACK RESPONSIBILITIES TO. FUTURE CLASS ACTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF AIR AND WATER WILL BE HARD TO ENACT. BEST SOLUTION IS TO NOT ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF ANY BESS IN THE UPPER REACHES OF MICHEAL CREEK CATCHMENTS. Again refer to attachment B.

MY CONCERN IS THE APPLICANT NEEDS 6.069 HA FOR THE MFEP BESS YET IS SEEKING MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE OVER 2794.93 HA, AND APPROVAL TO LEASE THAT AREA. WILL THIS ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL BESS FACILITIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT REQUIRING APPROVALS?

8. The noise impact of the BESS is said to be minimal and not exceeding similar to someone walking , yet during construction of the switching station people at that switching station could be heard talking clearly at properties 3km downwind, and machinery heard clearly at the camping grounds 6km away. ***NOISE MONITORING SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO THIS DA ESPECIALLY DOWNWIND OF THE BESS.***
MFEP HAS FAILED TO ACCURATELY MEASURE NOISE IMPACTS ALREADY AFFECTING THE MT FOX COMMUNITY.

9. Economic considerations including land values have not assessed land values and instead focus on job creation. The majority of residents at Mt Fox are either retired or already employed. There is suggestion of only 10 to 15 permanent jobs during construction, hardly beneficial to the community YET very beneficial to the applicant by not needing to supply accommodation or transport for local employees.
LAND VALUE IMPACT STUDIES HAVE NOT BEEN PRESENTED YET, ARE VERY RELEVANT TO ALL LANDOWNERS AT MT FOX. I ASK THAT AN INDEPENDENT VALUER BE ASSIGNED TO COMPARE HOW LAND VALUES PERFORMED IN OTHER RURAL LIFESTYLE AREAS WITH BESS and WINDFARM FACILITIES INSTALLED AND FINDINGS BE PRESENTED TO ALL LAND OWNERS AT MT FOX.
MFEP HAS FAILED TO PRESENT ANY REAL BENEFITS TO THE MT FOX COMMUNITY EXCEPT FOR MENTION OF THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND WHICH WILL BE BASED ON ENERGY OUTPUT OF THEIR TURBINES, NOT IN ANY WAY RELEVANT TO THE BESS PROPOSAL AND A FEW JOBS FOR LOCALS DURING CONSTRUCTION.

10. Bush fire risk. SARA information request states that a firebreak of only 45m will be applied only to the infrastructure included in this application, the MFEP BESS. Mt Fox naturally has a high bushfire risk and often these fires are only contained by back burning from a fire break because without a substantial back burned area fires easily jump across fire breaks and roads. Embers often proceed the fire front, sometimes by 1km or more.
HOW CAN THE APPLICANT PROTECT THE BESS IN THE EVENT OF A BUSHFIRE? WOULD LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE BESS BE UPON THE LANDOWNER WHERE THE FIRE STARTED? WOULD THE 20 MILLION PUBLIC LIABILITY CARRIED BY MOST LANDHOLDERS COVER DAMAGES TO A BESS?

MFEP HAS FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE MT FOX RURAL FIRE BRIGADE ARE ONLY ABLE TO FIGHT GRASS FIRES AND THAT AT NO TIME SHOULD THESE VOLUNTEERS OR ANY COMMUNITY MEMBER BE PUT AT RISK OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MFEP BESS.

IT IS IN NO WAY ACCEPTABLE THAT ANY RESPONSIBLY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE BESS BE PLACED UPON THE RESIDENTS WHO DONT WANT IT ANYWAY.

- 11. Micheal Creek and its tributaries are the lifeblood of Mt Fox and must be protected from any and all run off of any kind. Already there is considerable erosion at the switching station site and sediment visibly flowing into Yellori and Micheal Creeks.**

SIMILAR WATER STAINING OCCURED DURING AND AFTER CLEARING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREENVALE SWER LINE AND THE ROSS TO CAIRNS TRANSMISSION LINES. IT STILL HAPPENS TODAY IN A MUCH LESS VISABLE WAY AS DOES EROSION AND SEDIMENT RUN OFF WHEN SOIL DISTURBANCE OCCURS FROM MAINTENANCE OR USE OF THESE ACCESS ROADS. THERE IS UNPRECEDENTED SOIL DISTURBANCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MFEP, AND THE MFEP BESS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS THAT INVOLVE CLEARING. I CANNOT FIND ANY OBLIGATION UPON THE APPLICANT TO REHABILITATE THE AREAS AFFECTED UNTIL THE END OF USEFULL WINDFARM PROJECT LIFE.

MFEP IMPACT STUDIES HAVE NOT ASSESSED THE CREEKS AND TRIBUTARIES OR SPRINGS OR AQUIFERS THAT WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE BESS.

- 12. I am also concerned that MFEP BESS may use older technology lithium batteries. I believe some of the older technology batteries that have been rejected from other areas are destined to be used in rural areas to minimise risks and impacts associated from them burning in more populated areas. CAN THE RESIDENTS OF MT FOX BE ASSURED THAT ONLY THE NEWEST LITHIUM TECHNOLOGY BATTERIES BE USED ON ANY MFEP BESS SITES AND THAT ANY AND ALL DAMAGED BATTERIES BE REMOVED FROM THE MT FOX DISTRICT IMMEDIATELY AND DISPOSED OF TO APPROVED RECYCLING FACILITIES WELL AWAY FROM MOUNT FOX DISTRICT.**

CONCLUSION

I believe my objections are relevant to this development application and need to be addressed properly before any decision be made.

The risk presented to our community, the waterways and all flora and fauna far outweighs any benefits.

Prevention is a much better option than finding a cure.

As such I request that Hinchinbrook Shire Councillors deny this development application in any location in the Micheal Creek, Yellori and Cockatoo Springs headwaters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosemarie Watts', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

Rosemarie Watts.