

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 576 & 685
Petition Sponsored by: Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell
Directed to: Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Tabled on: 12 August 2025 & 13 August 2025

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the Fera Australia wind energy facility proposal in the Koyuga Nanneella area. While we support renewable energy initiatives, we firmly oppose the proposed location.

Fera intends to install 25 wind turbines with a towering tip height of 265 metres and blades spanning 170 metres. The small land allotments in our area mean that many neighbours would live in close proximity to the proposed facility. Fera's proposed setback distance of only one kilometre between the turbines and neighbouring homes falls significantly short of best practices. According to the NSW draft wind energy policy framework, a turbine this size should be no less than 2.25 kilometres from neighbouring dwellings.

The proposed location lies on a floodplain and upgrades required to access roads, installation of crane pads, and soil relocation during construction could obstruct floodwater flow. This facility could exacerbate future flooding risks. The site earmarked is productive irrigatable land used for intensive food production. Installing wind turbines here would compromise valuable agricultural resources.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to withhold approval of the Fera Australia Koyuga Nanneella wind farm based on its unsuitable location.

Reply:

I thank the Member for the Northern Victoria Region for raising this matter on behalf of the petitioners.

I acknowledge the concerns raised about the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm that I understand FERA Australia is investigating for the Koyuga Nanneella region. To date, FERA Australia has not yet engaged with the Department of Transport and Planning about this project.

If a planning permit application is received, it will undergo a comprehensive assessment process, all materials will be made publicly available and notice will be given to the surrounding community and key stakeholders, in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Community members will be able to make submissions, and all submissions will be considered before the matter is determined.

Planning assessment of the proposal will need to consider potential social, environmental and economic impacts that may arise from the facility. This would include examination of matters such as strategic land use planning, environmental risks and natural hazards, environmental impacts such as biodiversity protection, amenity, infrastructure requirements and impacts, landscape and agricultural impacts, and amenity.

It would be inappropriate for me to pre-emptively form a view on whether to approve or refuse planning permission for any proposal before an application is received and fully assessed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

19-9-2025