

REDDESTONE WIND FARM ACTION GROUP

LANDHOLDER GUIDE No. 5

Making an Informed Decision

Helping Landholders Make Informed Decisions

Why Should I Read This?

Being approached about a proposed wind energy project can raise many questions.

Every landholder's circumstances are different, and there is no single answer that is right for everyone.

The purpose of this guide is to encourage landholders to take the time to gather information, ask questions and make decisions based on their own circumstances.

An informed decision is almost always a better decision.

Take Your Time

You do not have to make an important decision immediately.

Before making any commitment:

- Read all documents carefully.
- Ask questions.
- Seek independent advice.
- Discuss the matter with your family.
- Consider both the short-term and long-term implications.

Good decisions are rarely made in a hurry.

Ask Questions

No one should feel uncomfortable asking questions.

If something is unclear, ask for an explanation.

Some questions you may wish to ask include:

- Why has my property been approached?
- What are the long-term implications?

- Can I take time to consider the agreement?
- What happens if I decide not to proceed?
- What independent advice should I obtain?

If you don't understand something, keep asking until you do.

Seek Information From Reliable Sources

Information about proposed developments can come from many places.

Where possible, rely on information from:

- official project documents;
- government publications;
- independent professional advisers;
- your solicitor or accountant;
- trusted industry organisations.

Be cautious about relying solely on rumours, social media posts or second-hand information.

Talk With Your Family

For many people, a rural property is more than a business.

It is a family home, a livelihood and, in many cases, something that has been built over generations.

Before making any important decision, discuss it with the people who may also be affected.

Different members of the family may have different questions or concerns.

Taking time to talk through the issues can help everyone better understand the options.

Consider the Future

When making any decision, think beyond today.

Ask yourself:

- How might this affect my property in the future?

- Could it affect future owners?
- Does it fit with my long-term plans?
- Have I considered all the available information?

Thinking ahead can help avoid unexpected surprises later.

Everyone's Circumstances Are Different

No two properties are exactly the same.

No two agreements are exactly the same.

No two families are exactly the same.

What may be appropriate for one landholder may not be appropriate for another.

For that reason, decisions should always be based on your own circumstances and independent professional advice.

Five Things to Remember

1. Take your time.

Don't rush into a decision.

2. Ask questions.

There are no silly questions.

3. Get independent advice.

Professional advice helps you understand your options.

4. Discuss it with your family.

Good decisions are often shared decisions.

5. Make the decision that is right for you.

Only you can decide what is best for your property, your family and your future.

Final Message

The purpose of this Landholder Guide Series has been to encourage landholders to become informed before making important decisions.

Whether you are considering a Neighbour Agreement, an Access Agreement or any other legal document, understanding what you are signing is one of the best ways to protect your interests.

Take the time to ask questions.

Seek independent advice.

Consider the long-term implications.

Then make the decision that is right for you and your family.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read the **Reddestone Wind Farm Action Group Landholder Guide Series**.

We hope these guides have helped explain some of the questions landholders may wish to consider when approached about a proposed wind energy project.

Knowledge, preparation and independent advice are valuable tools when making important decisions.

Disclaimer

This series has been prepared by the Reddestone Wind Farm Action Group as a general educational resource.

It is not legal, financial or taxation advice. Every property, every agreement and every landholder's circumstances are different. Independent professional advice should always be obtained before making decisions about legal agreements or property matters.