



June 2009

Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

Inquiry into rural wind farms

The Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No 5, Mr Ian Cohen MLC, has announced an inquiry into rural wind farms.

“Wind farming is a significant component of the NSW renewable energy portfolio and the Australian Government’s proposed Renewable Energy Target. It is forecast to deliver the State of NSW considerable growth in the renewable energy industry, increased regional job opportunities and reduced greenhouse gas emissions,” Mr Cohen said.

“In order to maximise these benefits, appropriate environmental and social planning provisions should be in place.”

“The Committee will be looking at the role of utility-scale wind generation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production, producing off peak and base load power, the optimal location for rural wind farms, the impact on rural property values, means of encouraging local ownership and control of wind technology, and the role for energy generated by rural wind farms in relation to the Australian Government’s Renewable Energy Target.”

“This inquiry is an opportunity for all stakeholders and communities to provide input into how NSW can ensure wind farm development equitably balances social, economic and environmental objectives.”

The Committee invites written submissions with a closing date of Friday 21 August 2009. Public hearings and regional site visits will commence in September 2009.

Submissions can be submitted via email to gpSCO5@parliament.nsw.gov.au, faxed to (02) 9230 3416 or mailed to:

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

The terms of reference are available on the Committee’s website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5.

**For comment please contact Ian Cohen MLC, Committee
Chair, on (02) 9230 2603 or 0409 989 466.**