

Submission  
No 3

## INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Ms Rowena Weir

Date received: 23/07/2009

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The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5  
Parliament House  
Sydney

Dear Sir

**Submission to Legislative Council Inquiry into Industrial Wind Turbines**

Firstly I apologise that this submission is a little late and hope you will forgive my tardiness.

I, along with my husband, and three adult children, am apposed to the construction of wind turbines on the pristine ridgelines of the southern tablelands and slopes.

We support the need for alternative energy sources but believe wind energy installations are inefficient and impact detrimentally on communities both socially and environmentally.

Wind energy has proven to be far more costly than solar power, which we support, and a huge drain on government, and therefore taxpayers, through subsidies.

Our family has lived and farmed in the Yass district for generations and we dread the effect the wind turbines will have on:

- the value of our farm, (turbines are proposed on the next door property to the west, and on a rideline in view 1.5 kilometres to the east);
- our health - depression is already rife in this area due to the drought;
- our community - deep divisions are emerging in this once closeknit community;
- the wildlife - birds of prey abound here at present;
- the flora - the ridgelines are very fragile areas.

It is our belief that wind energy is a foil for companies to continue polluting while investing in "green energy" and for governments meeting renewable energy targets. In the meantime the pollution created in constructing these turbines and installing them on pristine ridgelines using mega amounts of concrete in foundations and ripping up fragile soils and flora with heavy machinery seems to go unheeded.

We believe if wind energy is adopted at all it should be restricted to areas where the residential and environmental impacts will be negligible such as in the far west of the state, or within state forests or national parks, not in the closer settled rural communities of the southern tablelands and slopes.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Rowena Weir  
and Sam, Annabel, David and Katrina Weir.