

Submission  
No 14

## INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

**Name:** Mr Warwick & Ms Sandy Marshall

**Date received:** 5/08/2009

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1.

23/07/09.

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

Dear Director,

Below is the submission that we lodged with the DoP in regard to the following development. We feel it fits the "terms of reference" for the Inquiry into rural wind farms.

Please find enclosed our submission in regard to the KYOTO ENERGY PARK project which is proposed for Scone, NSW. The following are the reasons why we strongly OBJECT to this project.

1. Financial: Due to the positioning of this Industry, we had to re-consider our options in regard to building our family home. As a result of this our out of pockets expenses are considerable. Obtaining power to the block, preparing a building site, grading roads etc. did not come cheap. We realized that the visual and noise impact alone would have made the living conditions unbearable. Our sympathy goes out to couples our age, who have built in areas that are now showing in the EA as areas of high impact. May I ask why local councils are allowed to let people commit huge monies on building a home in a location, when they are very aware that this proposal is on the drawing board? From our understanding this development has been "on the cards" since 1998 and we the most affected found out in May 2007. Is that the way the democratic process works?

## 2.

**Loss:** The emotional loss to our family has been one that has been extremely difficult to come to terms with. We had planned for our children to go to the local school, and to be available for my aging parents who have the block next door. The very sensitive reply when my wife asked Pamada re compensation for monies we had already spent and the fact that our whole life has been upturned by this development was “difficult to pay emotional compensation”.

- Visual:** The view from our land as it is can only be described as “spectacular” 360 degree view – looking over Towarri National Park, which we join, and being able to see right down the valley toward Singleton. This will no longer be the case. Both sides and in front of us will be 150m high turbines. From our understanding the tallest to be built in Australia, if not the world. This alone is cause for deep concern. We will be impacted on by both sites!

Another major concern is the aircraft lighting which will light the whole of Glen Range up like a Christmas tree! It is with interest we read throughout the EA that all these visual issues can be overcome by “growing trees”. Very obvious the persons making these statements do not have any understanding of how we feel. We want to keep what we have because we love the natural surrounds, plus being a bush fire prone area, alongside a National Park, as is the heavily forested Glen Range currently (won't be when Pamada place their industry there) more trees are not the ideal way to go. A severe fire has been through this area within the last five years.

- Noise:** plus impact of low frequency sound. Whilst wind farm proponents deny that this is an issue there is currently enough information available to very strongly refute this. An example – when my parents at the Pamada open day on the 16/02/08 asked the noise consultant how noise would affect them. He stated after seeing where they were on the map, “it will be noisy – you'll get used to it.” The Consultant acknowledged it is an issue so why do we have to live with

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it? Why should any of us have to get used to something that we currently haven't got and has the potential to cause and I quote: there is "a link between chronic exposure to low frequency sound abnormal growth of collagen and elastin in the blood vessels, cardiac structures, trachea, lungs and kidneys of humans and animals."(M.Alves-Pereira and Castelo Branco Vibroacoustic disease).

Dr. Nina Pierpont (Pierpont 2006) has found a variety of neurobiological disturbances in people living close to wind industries, such as sleep disturbances, headaches, dizziness, anxiety so the list goes on. Yet another: "Woman tells a tale of turbine torment 12/02/09. Retired pharmacist speaks to Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards about the effects industrial wind turbines had on her health". If these Industries are going to be allowed to proliferate within areas that are quite densely populated then State and Federal Government have to accept responsibility for the obvious health issues that are going to end up impacting on communities.

4. **Fire:** Fires in wind turbines usually begin in one or two ways – lightning strike or a technical fault. As previously stated we have had a serious fire in this area of recent times. From my understanding the fire was started by lightning. The resources required to manage this incident were extensive. We did not have 11 – 150m high turbines on the range at that time. The turbines are likely to have transmission fluids or other lubricants within their makeup. Are the nacelle covers made from a plastic that is highly flammable! From my understanding you just have to let these turbines burn as NO equipment currently available is able to do other than try and put out spot fires. Might I suggest many homes for both humans and animals could be at serious risk! Even if it is only a one off!
  
5. **Construction:** Wind Turbine construction. 16.3. Vol 1. Page 317. As with much of the information within this EA everything hinges on whether this happens, or that eventuates etc. When Pamada talk in

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**regard to the excavation that is involved in regard to the turbine footings I would sincerely hope that at no stage will Pamada be allowed to blast on Glen Range or Mountain Station for that matter. Another very important reason why this should not occur (blasting) is the fact that it is a wildlife corridor (Glen Range) between two areas of Towarri National Park. If this was to occur I would expect that every landholder within the vicinity would have the opportunity to claim for any damages done to property or person. This should be stated in the approval.**

**Since hearing of this proposal back in 2007 it has been on our mind constantly. No one other than those who are going to be impacted on have any idea how disturbing it is for us, realising that our way of life as we know it is potentially over. Eg: local council went and visited a wind farm in Victoria, where TV reception was virtually zilch. They weren't sure but found their mobile phones did not work in that particular area query due to electromagnetic interference? That is just another issue that we have not even touched on and there is many more such as flicker, blade glint and the list goes on.**

**Why do we have to be the losers? We certainly did not put our hands up for this intrusive industry right on people's back door! Massive funds come from State and Federal Government (may I say our \$'s because we pay tax) the developer makes money, landholder makes money, indigenous person's make money, communities make money and yet those that stand to lose most and get zero compensation do so for "in the scheme of things - very little unfortunately" this was stated by Pamada in relation to the power supposedly generated by this Industry.**

**At the very least if this project is approved part of the approval process should be that people who wish to sell property after twelve months are to be brought out by the proponent and the landholder. The price should be based on sales around this area over the last 2/4 years.**

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I finish our submission with the following: if indeed this enormous piece of environmental vandalism goes ahead and is only going to produce “in the scheme of things – very little unfortunately” what an absolute disaster for all of us! The aim to lower GHG emissions should not come at such an enormous human cost particularly when it is being done in such an inefficient way!

Explain why Germany has up to 19,000 turbines and continues to build coal fired power stations. (Radio National 27/04/09). (End of submission).

“Your terms of reference which we ask you to focus on in particular are”;  
minimise residential and environmental impacts.

How can this be done? Ensure that they are NOT located anywhere within at least 10km’s of any residence. This will hopefully avoid some of the noise as well as the huge visual impact.

Impact of rural wind farms on property values.

In a fair and just society you cannot have agreement with one section of the community in regard to compensation (mining) and allow another section (who are going to be impacted on maybe even more so) with noise, vibration and multiple other issues such as flicker, blade glint, electromagnetic interference, so the list continues and not offer compensation. If this inquiry is to report on the true issues in relation to this Industry (for that is truly what it is) then all of the above concerns need to be dealt with before another approval is granted for any other industrial wind turbines to be erected. COMPENSATION has to be part of the approval process if Governments continue to place this Industry at people’s back door! Property such as “rural residential” is often people’s super fund. So what right has anyone, let alone the State or Federal government got to assist in the devaluing of that property up to 30%.

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For and on behalf of;

W & S. MARSHALL  
Warrick and Sandy Marshall.