

**Submission  
No 25**

## **INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS**

**Name:** Mrs Janine Hannan

**Date received:** 11/08/2009

---

Att the Director,  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney 2000.

Dear Director,

I would like to make a submission regarding the inquiry into social, environmental and economic costs to benefits of industrial wind turbines. I am an affected land owner in the Crookwell area and request to speak at the public hearings held in the Southern Tablelands.

Regarding the role of utility-scale wind generation in **The role of utility-scale wind generation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production**, there is plenty of evidence that wind farms do not compare well with gas-fired power stations. See attached report above written by Peter R. Mitchell AM, B ChE to support my argument.

Regarding item 1.b. **The role of utility-scale wind generation in producing off peak and base load power**, It has been proven that wind power can never generate base load power. As Terry McCrann, leading financial journalist stated in the Daily Telegraph (4.8.09) "The Rudd Government's green power strategy has been shredded by analysis which shows the uselessness of the power on which it is almost all based - wind. You will find that wind fails as a power source. When the wind don't blow, the power don't flow. Even more devastatingly, as this independent analysis shows, the wind not only don't blow an awful lot of the time, it tends to not blow everywhere at the same time. This utterly shreds the claim that if we build enough of the so-called wind farms in Southern Australia, the wind will always blow somewhere. NO IT WON'T. This analysis from weather analyst Andrew Miskelly and physicist Tom Quirk tracks the performance of wind farms across Victoria, NSW and Tasmania for June in 5 minute intervals. Two huge and unmistakable messages leap out of the graph. Wind farms spend most of their time not generating power or not generating very much. they move from a lot of power to zero. Second, even though spread right across southern Australia, they tend to produce or not produce at much the same time, making impossible any practical ability to ask nature to turn on, say, Victorian wind farms when nature has turned off South Australian ones, or even distant Tasmanian ones. And when you put all the wind farms in the four states together you get a devastating image of uselessness that would require you to keep almost the equivalent capacity coal-fired power stations on and operating pretty much at full power all the time."

Re Item 3 **The impact of wind farms on property values**. We have a 4500 acre property located adjacent to Crookwell 2 and although we do not wish to sell, believe the value would decrease by \$2 - 3 million. Many of the properties in the area are for sale but because of the threat of more turbines in the area, are unable to sell. For example, the Anabel family, from "Elmgrove" who have Crookwell 1 next door at present, will be totally surrounded by this and Crookwell 2, which makes their land virtually unsaleable. A farmer's property is usually his greatest asset and is used to (a) pass on to future generations or (b) use it for his superannuation, i.e. sell it and move closer to town or to smaller holdings. People who move to the country from the city are usually affluent already and are looking for a quiet retreat. Wind farm areas are not known for being tranquil. When we purchased the property 20 years ago, we were blown away by the quiet, pretty English-type country side and were more than happy to buy. If we had known then what we know now, I doubt if we would have purchased in this area.

Re Item 6 **Any other relevant matter**. Relevant to the inquiry is the fact that local and state governments have previously not listened to local residents regarding their concerns about wind farms. I believe not enough research has been done on the developers EA's and their claims with regard to the landscape degradation and the impact on wildlife including large

raptors such as the Wedge-tailed Eagle. It seems that the Department of Planning have bent over backwards for the developers and have taken their word as to how much electricity will be generated. We have sent many submissions and asked many questions of the developers and also the department and as of now, not one of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. It is very frustrating to have spent so much time and effort to have our concerns brushed aside.

Our lifestyle amenity and our well being will be adversely affected when and if the Crookwell 2 wind farm goes ahead, the towers will dominate the landscape and the noise levels and television reception impacts are yet to be proven.

There is a real threat of bushfires from the wind turbines catching fire. This has already happened twice in South Australia with 63,000 homes left without power. I have already asked the developer "Who is responsible if a fire starts on a host property?" But again no satisfactory answer. As our property is in an area that is still not out of drought, we need to know what measures are put in place if a fire breaks out and spreads to adjoining properties. I might point out that, because of the height of the towers, this is also a no-fly zone so there will be no aerial assistance. This is a big concern because fire-fighters have to wait until burning debris hit the ground before trying to extinguish the flames.

In conclusion, I am opposed to wind power as an alternative energy source. We have been brainwashed by the wind industry and governments into rushing into this type of power generation, without the type of inquiry that is now occurring. These wind farms are a major industrial site and will be of little or no benefit to the consumer.

Can you please advise via email a time and date for me to speak at the hearing.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Janine Hannan