

**Submission
No 51**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Mr John McGrath

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Dear Mr Ian Cohen MLC

I wish to address the General Purpose Standing Committee No.5 on the Inquiry into rural wind farms;

In our immediate interest is the proposed is the "Proposed Conroy's Gap Wind farm", although I will relate to these installations in general;

1. I wonder at the benefit of such an installation having much benefit reducing green house gas emissions and producing any noticeable off peak and base load, my understanding of electricity generation is that the generation source turns at a constant speed ie producing a constant regulated current and voltage. Where as "Wind Towers" as such are usually running in a "stop start" scenario!
2. The location of proposed wind farms to optimise wind resource appears to have no relevance to minimising residential and environmental impacts; certainly this is not relevant in our immediate instance. Unfortunately the placement of "towers" with the "Proposed Conroy's Gap Wind farm", and several other such installations that I am aware of fall well within the safe distance placement of individual "towers" from places of residences as applied by the World Health Authority.
Also in our case again we rely heavily on the creek that passes through our property, for both domestic and stock water supplies, and the fact that we are subject to heavy storms which already deposit large quantities of gravel off this over cleared range (the result of misconstrued Government Policy of an era post World War One, when my immediate forebears were instructed by the then Government that if they did not completely clear this range, then they could not "hold" it) into the creek's water holes. If these constructions were to proceed and the timing was such that one of these storms occurred at the same time as the massive earthworks was open to allow for tower footings, and construction of service access tracks were allowed to proceed, the results would be catastrophic, to the point where we would no longer have a creek at all. Not to mention further erosion that such earth works would instigate on this slope.
If this installation was either a Coal Fired or Hydro Generation plant then there would be an exclusion zone around such a generation plant well clear of domestic residences, this is not the case with Wind Generation Installations!
3. The installation of wind farms on property values is well documented, and is certainly a catalyst for property purchase avoidance by prospective purchasers in our immediate area.
4. These wind farms are being installed by foreign interests for foreign interests, again with our case A German based company installing for Origin Energy that is largely invested in by Chinese and New Zealand interests. How many locals enjoy benefits there, and control technology if the installations are also designed in Europe. The resultant Carbon Credits which is the primary purpose of these installations will go directly overseas.
5. Although the claimed benefits and generation outputs of the proposed installations are great in reality the actual amount of generated power will be minimal!
6. Eupron the company proposing to install the local Wind Farm also proposes to connect to either of the 132KV (Kilovolt) power lines known as 990 or the 970 which run in a general East West configuration to our South, to the best of my knowledge these are "fully loaded" interconnectors between Yass and Wagga Wagga 330KV Substations.

My question is how do they "force" electricity generated from such a low energy source into a fully laden power line?

Also I feel that there is too much misinformation put out there, and I will give two examples!

1. Some time ago it was advertised that a night time Rugby League Football match that was to be played at Canberra stadium was to be fully lit by power from a South Australian Wind Farm.

2. Energy providers asking the consumer to pay extra money to receive "Green Energy" delivered to their home ie from a "Green" renewable source.

My analogy is that like the water that runs down our creek and finds its way into the Murray River system, cannot be extracted as a molecule of water that has or could be identified as having passed through this creek! Therefore how can a claim be made that energy generated on a wind farm in South Australia can be directed to illuminate the lights solely at one football stadium thousands of kilometres away, all power generated is "mixed" as is water from creeks and rivers and individual molecules of water like individual molecules cannot be identified as having come from that source! Likewise with the claim that you will receive "Green Energy" is false advertising and a totally unsustainable claim! In fact I believe the word should be **propaganda**, directed at uninformed people!

2. Also in the past these machines have been known to ignite, catch on fire etc. If these combination tower/turbine were to catch on fire what plans are implemented to extinguish such an oil fuel blaze atop a tower upwards of ninety meters in height with a forty five meter diameter blade? The blades spinning would not only hinder access to extinguish the fire but fan it as well!

My qualifications are 36 years involved as an Electrician in the Electrical Industry and 13.5 of those years as an employed as a Substation Maintenance Fitter with TRANSGRID at Yass, I have lived adjacent to this "Range", on which the proposed "wind farm" is to be sited all my life.

Regards John McGrath