

**Submission
No 44**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Mr Michael Inkster

Date received: 20/08/2009

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

Dear Chairperson,

I'd like to raise concerns in relation to the extreme quantity of proposed Wind Farm / Factory projects within the Yass Valley and surrounds.

Our own, elected Mayor, (Mayor Carmody) has correctly stated he feared "in 20 years the Yass Valley would be left with hundreds of unusable turbines sticking out of the ground". Unfortunately, I don't believe it will take 20 years before these eyesores become worthless, unprofitable bare poles.

It begs belief that a landholder is prohibited from constructing a Zinalume shed for fear of causing unnecessary glare to neighbouring properties, yet the State Government, under the disguise of being "green" will encourage a development which will completely dominate and destroy the rural skyline!

Already reports are flowing from Europe that these turbines are not effective or efficient in the production of alternative energy with solar, tidal, geo thermal and heaven forbid, new, clean, risk free, nuclear technology being explored. Wind Turbine power is intermittent therefore, it can not, and does not, provide base load power. Therefore, the number of coal and gas fired power stations will not be reduced.

Yes, we need to explore alternative methods for creating power however, at what cost?

These turbines not only destroy the land they reside on, they, as reported in *The Land* (16 April) by Alan Dick, "split communities with some farmers happy to have a share of the income from turbines erected on their properties, and others vehemently opposed because of concerns about visual, noise and native bird impacts".

Whilst it is understandable in these dry times that landholders are looking for quick cash, we need to consider the long term impacts of these developments. During the construction of these 120m plus monsters, paddocks and native vegetation are destroyed with 12m wide roads required, often rendering them useless for years to come.

What happens when the cash dries up and subsidies are reduced or even canceled?

Who will return grazing land to its pre wind factory condition?

Why is the Government so intent on rushing the demolition of historical grazing land in order to construct these wind factories when their life span is obviously very limited?

Why is the development approval for these wind factories taken away from our elected local officials?

Why split rural communities by tempting a few with quick, apparently easy cash whilst destroying the lifestyle others have worked so hard to secure?

These turbines are destructive to native birdlife, a fire hazard, an eyesore (day and night), a noise polluter and an inefficient and soon to be outdated method of power generation that destroys rural communities.

Please don't allow our pristine Yass Valley to be turned into an industrial wasteland with hundreds of bare unusable turbines sticking out of the ground in the not to distant future.

Sincerely,

Michael Inkster