

Submission
No 94

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation: O'Donnell Griffin
Name: Mr Philip Tilden
Position: NSW/ACT Manager
Date received: 21/08/2009

The Director
NSW Parliamentary Standing Committee No 5
Inquiry into rural Wind Farms

Dear Director,

I am the NSW Manager of a Publicly Listed Infrastructure Engineering and Contracting Services business. The following are my personal views and do not reflect the opinion or belief of my employer. I have based my opinion on my own Industry knowledge.

NSW as does most of Australia faces a growing shortage of Electricity to the grid, and requires development of rapid build power generation capacity that meets current and future emission and environmental regulations and trends. This can be met in various guises, with various technologies available in many 'green' generations. NSW Government has publicly committed to utilise 100% Green energy for the Desalination plant in Kurnell and will require more and more injection of green power into the grid. I believe that commercial large scale generation from true green power is only available in wind farms with this technology well exploited in Europe and other regions across the globe

Wind farm technology has evolved reasonably well enabling it to generate power in low wind conditions. And contrary to what would be convention thinking has with correct locality selection a high generation time

NSW like most of Australia has a high concentration of its population located within a narrow fringe along the Coast Line, leaving vast inland tracts of ground uninhabited and somewhat uninhabitable. This creates a suitable locality to build large commercial wind farms, subject to climatic conditions. Wind farms need to be considered strongly for remote locations given their lack of aesthetic appeal and the drone noise generated from the turbine. The sparse remote locations of Australia / NSW suit this need particularly with the winds as generated over hilly terrain.

As with all moving part machinery there is created an ongoing servicing and maintenance need that will have the ability to generate jobs to areas that struggle at times to generate employment. Drought and other extremes that destroy traditional agricultural farming prospects find new uses for the land with the 'farming' of wind to create energy resource. This alternative farming could create ingenuity in designing leased land parcels that could suit dual purpose with agricultural and energy generation utilised on the same land parcel guaranteeing our primary industry a consistent income. Our farmers with a supplemented income could review their current pricing and offer cost savings to basic produced food staples creating a benefit to the whole population.

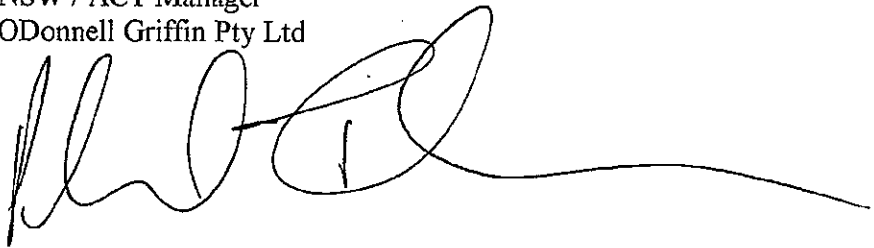
In summary I believe that the standing committee therefore needs to consider in the positive

- The need to quickly bolster our energy generation capacity to suit the needs of our population
- The State Governments promise to use Green Energy (Desal Plant)
- Wind conditions that suit maximum generation time of a wind farm
- Multi use of property with agriculture and wind farming
- Job creation / preservation

I appreciate the opportunity to put forward my views in support of wind farms located in regional NSW.

Philip Tilden

NSW / ACT Manager
ODonnell Griffin Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Tilden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.