

**Submission  
No 30**

## **INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS**

**Name:** Mr Arthur and Mrs Christine Haylock

**Date received:** 13/08/2009

---

Our property is included in the proposed Boco Rock windfarm area in southern NSW. A Major Project application has been submitted by Wind Prospect CWP. If approved, we are enthusiastic about this windfarm development.

Some of the benefits of this project that we envisage are:

- The site has a commercially attractive wind resource
- The proposed area is occupied by relatively few landholders; it is relatively isolated yet close to the population centres of Canberra and the far south coast.
- The development would help local councils meet their undertakings for use of renewable energy.
- Windfarms can coexist with existing land practices – in this case, sheep and cattle production will continue on the properties.
- The development would provide a new revenue stream to local land holders which will in turn benefit the local economy
- These developments will help keep people on farms and reduce to some extent their reliance on rainfall to drive their animal production system.
- The development will provide jobs during and post-construction

Windfarms are an available, proven alternative energy source. While research should continue into other systems, windfarms can be producing energy a relatively short time after approval. They can meet the wider communities' desire for alternative energy generation that can be achieved now. Large scale solar, geothermal, tidal, chemical and nuclear options still have to be improved. Wind technology is commercially available now. Windfarms, though obvious from some distance, can be removed at the end of their lifespan, leaving the landscape relatively unaffected.

Visual pollution is a contentious issue and potential problem with windfarms. It is, however, subjective and must be balanced against the likelihood that there are many people ambivalent or positive about the visual impact of windfarms. If they are commercially attractive and well sited, there are many landholders keen to have them. Land values could be affected, particularly the value of land involved in the development. The affect on nearby land without turbines, could be unfavourable.

Siting of windfarms becomes crucial – looking for places which have sufficient wind but are not close to population centres and rural subdivisions. The companies themselves are obviously adept at finding these sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the debate.