

**Submission
No 109**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation: Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Assoc. Inc.
Name: Mr Wayne Bedggood
Position: President
Date received: 2/09/2009

To the Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No.5,

Please find attached my submission (resubmitted as requested by Rhia Vitorino) for your perusal.

Also attached are photographs pertaining to the property "Cressfield". They were taken whilst I was driving through our property one morning a month ago when it suddenly dawned on me that the views I take for granted were in danger of changing indefinitely. Attached is a photograph of that view (which you are more than welcome to come and see in person).....the range in the skyline is the Glen Range and that particular section (complete photograph skyline) will be totally covered by wind turbines. The Homestead in the photo is the Cressfield Homestead (1917) which is almost restored, under Heritage guidance, for a total cost of around \$1,500,000.....it almost seems like a waste knowing what may transpire!

Please zoom-in on the photo for full effect.

Regards,

Wayne Bedggood
(President of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Assoc. Inc.)

Manager

Cressfield

Stud Office

Head Office

Cressfield



21st of August, 2009

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

Ref: Application no. MP06_0055

Dear Director,

We wish to formally express our absolute disappointment in respect of the concept of proposed Wind Farms at Mountain Station, Owens' Gap and Glen Ranges, Middlebrook Station and object to any approval that may have been granted.

It is the Glen Ranges site that will affect us the most as we have a direct line of sight from our 4,000 acre property. Our western boundary adjoins the Henderson's property (owner of the proposed site at Middlebrook) and is no more than 2 kilometres away, "as the crow flies", from where the 150 meter high turbines will be situated.

During our 10 year ownership of Cressfield we have spent in excess of \$25 million on property improvements, restorations and general farm development and between \$3 million and \$5 million in running costs per year. All of our developments have benefited local contractors and 90% of the running costs are paid to Scone businesses or our employees. We employ 16 permanent and 8 casual staff, most of whom support families.

We permanently agist thoroughbred horses owned by Cressfield valued in excess \$25 million and during our 6 month "breeding season" we carry stock for clients to the value of \$10 million. We present these figures to demonstrate the scale of our operation. We rely heavily on marketing and as we do a lot of our marketing "on-farm", aesthetics and ambience are key factors in promoting, attracting and achieving sales.

Our Yearling parade area, adjacent to Cressfield Road, faces South-West and DIRECTLY OVERLOOKS the proposed Glen Ranges wind farm site! Over the last 2 years we have presented yearlings (that have gone to sale for a total sale value of nearly \$9 million) at this parade area and always we are complimented on the magnificent backdrop to our property. It is unimaginable that we would, or could, continue to do this with 150 meter high wind turbines humming noisily in the immediate vicinity and marring the beautiful natural background of our property and its surrounds. THIS LINE OF SIGHT INTRUSION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

We are one of three major thoroughbred farms in the immediate area to be effected by this intrusion on our landscape and there are a dozen more breeders within several kilometres of the proposed site. How is it that Scone, "Horse Capital of Australia", with a similar profile to that of the USA's Lexington, Kentucky and England's Newmarket, can be selected to erect these monumental eyesores?

It concerns us immensely that there is a very real risk to our livestock from the sound emitted from the turbines and that the studies done also point to similar issues with humans! We understand that this has been countered by those arguing for the wind farms that studies are inconclusive and debatable but this only lends weight to caution and more study into the effects. There is also no doubt whatsoever that Cressfield and it's stock will be effected by the strobe/flicker from the turbine blades and aircraft warning lights required by CASA.

We are not ignorant to the benefits of the wind farms but their benefits IN THIS INSTANCE are far outweighed by the detriment that would be caused to numerous businesses, land values and agricultural productivity if they are to be located so close to the Scone community.

We implore you to research this further and as far as we are concerned there has been not been enough "close consultation with community stakeholders" as cited by Pamada in their communiqué to Cressfield, dated 22nd of June, 2009, as neither Cressfield or myself (as president of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association) have been contacted in any official capacity! Many of the concerned parties I met at the meeting held by the "Upper Hunter Landscape Guardians Inc." on the 8th of July, 2009, were also very poorly informed about the consultation process and I believe more time and study is required before you commit to allowing this possible watershed community event.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Bedggood', written over a faint circular stamp.

Wayne Bedggood
Manager, Cressfield.