

**Submission
No 62**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Ms Anne Davis

Date received: 21/08/2009

Oakleigh Park

18 August, 2009

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No.5

Parliament House, Macquarie House

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Director

Ref: Inquiry into rural wind farms.

I am a resident living 15kms northwest of Scone, my property lies 3 kms from the turbines proposed for the Kyoto Energy Park. My residence lies within the area which will be highly impacted by the proposed turbine development. I appreciate the opportunity to outline my concerns to this inquiry.

In response to the terms of reference of your inquiry I would like to comment on the following-

1. The role of utility scale wind generation in
 - a) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by electricity production.

The production of the concrete and enormous amount of steel required for each turbine as well as transportation and the installation of power lines to link the turbines to the grid will produce large amounts of greenhouse gases. Since these machines are expected to operate 30% of the time and have a reasonably short operational lifespan (most likely 10-15 years), how are they expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Other forms of renewable energy are far more effective – solar and geo-thermal.

b) Producing off peak and base load.

Wind power has been used for thousands of years as a source of power. Wind is great for powering a sail boat and grinding corn. At this stage of technological development we cannot rely on wind turbines for our energy needs yet their negative impact on rural communities via visual and noise is massive. Other forms of renewable energy is less invasive. We need to develop better ways of storing the energy produced by wind.

2 Locating rural wind farms to optimise wind resources and minimise residential and environmental impacts.

Over the last century increasingly larger areas of the Hunter Valley have been opened up by coal mining. The undisturbed forested areas of the Upper Hunter have become the last refuge for many bird species who have had their habitat destroyed by development. Twelve years ago an area along the Middlebrook Range was declared as Towarri National Park. A decade later the rest of the Middlebrook Range has been earmarked for wind turbines ! The forested hills of the Upper Hunter are an important habitat for wedge-tailed eagles and bats.

It would make far greater sense to locate wind turbines close to the power grid in the coal scarred landscape of the Hunter Valley where the natural landscape has already been destroyed, the residents have long gone and the environmental impacts will be far less.

As someone who will be hugely impacted by the proposed wind turbines, apart from the destruction of the undisturbed native bushland and birdlife, the low frequency noise vibration emitted by these machines 24/7 will destroy a peaceful environment that has been such a valuable part of our rural existence.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Davies". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped 'A' and 'D'.

Anne Davies