

**Submission
No 73**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Ms Shirley Watson

Date received: 21/08/2009

20/8/09

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

Re INQUIRY INTO WIND FARMS

ie. INDUSTRIAL WIND GENERATION DEVELOPMENTS

Dear Sir,

We refer to these developments as **INDUSTRIAL WIND GENERATION DEVELOPMENTS** as the term wind farms seems to provide a perception to the wider community as being an unobtrusive, and non invasive development. This is the perception that developers and supporters within government departments wish to create, but in reality these developments are already and in the case of Scone ,have the potential to have a detrimental effect on the local and wider community. They are not farms, but **commercial industrial developments** and I take exception to the fact they have hijacked the term farm.

I am sending you a copy of our submission prepared for Department of Planning in the hope it will provide you with some points to seriously consider in your inquiry. Also included is a submission written by my sixteen year old daughter who is gravely concerned at the thoughtless and haphazard nature of these developments and how it will impact on her future and the future of her generation, as am I.

I am also sending a copy of a comment written in the Sydney Morning Herald 20/8/09. It's content only confirms what we already know. I trust you would have already seen it , given the subject of your inquiry, but I believe it is worth another look.

Scone and its surrounding district is the last frontier of the Hunter Valley. It is the last remaining unspoiled area of this valley that has not been industrialised by coal mine development and power stations. The proposed wind turbine development by Pamada would be situated right in a major part of the northern wildlife corridor which is vital for the existence of many rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. Pamada has made provisions in their EA for monetary compensation for bird deaths. This is an insult to our future generations.

I urge you to make an urgent site visit to the Scone area as this area remains one of the few unspoiled areas where rural character can still be found and identified. It is a unique part of Eastern Australia which must be preserved and not jeopardised .

Wind Turbine developments are being questioned overseas as to whether they are a viable energy alternative at all. However, if they must form part of Australia's energy generation resources, use the heaps of overburden left behind after coal mining. This land cannot be regenerated to its original state and is already damaged so use it as a platform for these giant turbines, where no one is living, noise would not be an issue, native bushland is non existent and visual impact is no longer an issue as it already looks like a lunar landscape.

I thank you most sincerely for undertaking this inquiry and trust you will seek the truth relentlessly and make informed decisions based on facts, not propaganda.

Yours faithfully

Shirley Watson.