

Submission
No 52

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation: G Lawrence & Son
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G Lawrence & Son

Nigel and I, and our respective families, are one of the four landholders who are hosting the Silverton Windfarm. Nigel and I are writing to express our opinion regarding how the windfarm will affect our property and future operations. The windfarm provides us with financial security. The last 10 years have been exceptionally difficult times, with poor commodity prices and years of drought. The revenue that has been negotiated between the Silverton Windfarm operators, The Crown and ourselves, will be income, irrespective of seasonal conditions and so in effect will drought-proof our property and provide us with sufficient financial security to keep our heads above water.

Broken Hill has recently been served another blow with mass redundancies in the local mines due to low commodity prices and resource demand. This has left the city with little prospect in terms of short term future revenue and security. The global financial crisis has also impacted on the cities investment opportunities and tourism. The announcement of the Silverton Windfarm (Stage 1) has given the city some hope in terms of future employment, financial stability and investment, whereas historically the city has relied almost solely on the mines for major employment.

Silverton Windfarm will affect our property directly, particularly during the construction phase, however the windfarm operators have worked with us to ensure that our operating concerns through this phase are addressed. We are also being fairly compensated for loss of revenue. The landscape will be impacted particularly through the construction phase however the Silverton Windfarm operators have again addressed these concerns along with having an obligation to Western Lands to rehabilitate the land as much to the original landscape as possible.

Silverton Windfarm will provide Broken Hill with huge short term (up to 700 jobs) and permanent (80 -100 jobs) employment which in turn will positively impact local businesses and the community. Tourism is also an important industry in Broken Hill and Silverton and the windfarm will be another drawcard to the area, perhaps enticing a 'different kind' of tourist, as it will be one of the largest inland windfarms in the world. Australia is becoming increasingly interested in green energy and the Australian government is heading towards increasing renewable energy targets. Silverton Windfarm is a large windfarm and will have a large impact on meeting these green energy targets.

The general feeling towards the windfarm in this area is very, very positive, especially considering what the city has been through over the last 12 months. There has been some opposition to the windfarm within the Silverton community however the Windfarm operators have been working in consultation within the community

and their needs are being listened to and from our understanding, are being addressed.

**Greg and Nigel Lawrence
Nine Mile Station**