

**Submission
No 33**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Mr John Mendl

Date received: 17/08/2009

Dear Director

Can you please submit the following to your committee of enquiry.

Since 1979 my family have lived full time at _____ and will be directly affected by the development.

I am sure others, with more knowledge about the project, will give a more technical submission to your committee.

I would like to personally object against the development for the following reasons:-

- 1) I have attended many meetings with an open mind but have been disappointed by the attitude of the officers for the developer to those of us affected. They insisted it was their "God given right" to put these very large structures where ever they liked in the best interests of NSW. They insisted they had a mandate, due to the poll conducted at the last council election.
- 2) I suggest that the poll was poorly constructed in the question asked and the evidence, both for and against, supplied to the electorate. Since the approval of the wind farm I have spoken to many town folk who didn't really care but said there was only two options, so voted in favour. They wanted a " don't know" or even a " don't care" box to tick. Others didn't realise these towers will be about twice the size of the existing turbines on the outskirts of Crookwell. Others didn't realise we will get a flicker from late afternoon till dark as we live on the eastern side. Due to the height of the blades and the number in our vicinity this will be very disconcerting. They didn't even consider the noise factor. There is some doubt who voted in the booths close to the site, like Grabben Gullen. Many of us affected by the turbines voted in town so some are saying who made the effort to vote at Grabben Gullen to ensure 70% acceptance at that booth ???
- 3) We have been advised from reliable sources that there are no guarantees in regard to the accuracy of the models used for calculating the noise levels at certain distances. The statistical data has been prepared and funded by the developer.
- 4) No one has been able to give any assurances that the magnetic forces and electricity generated will not have any medical implications. I notice a recent television program indicated there was significant medical problems for local residents. Some contractors we use in running our property are concerned of ill health from working close to the turbines. This might result in not getting contractors to continue to assist us with running the property.
- 5) Some people close to existing wind turbines have stated that the wind farm has had a detrimental result on his cattle and the raising of their progeny. His productivity and profits have been significantly reduced.
- 6) We are able to sub divide three blocks off our property which was our retirement plan. They will be close to the turbines and therefore we consider the development will significantly reduce the value of those blocks.. It will take a long time to grow trees to block them out of view and reduce the problems associated with the movement and noise . Any slight medical problem cannot be addressed.
- 7) Recent letters in the local paper talk about compensation for those within 2 kilometres of the turbines. We will be disadvantaged but live outside that

perimeter. Why should we miss out. There is also mention of about \$240000 per year given by the developer to Council for local community projects. That sounds great but again we might not get any advantage from these funds.

8) Why can't these very large (40 stories high) infrastructures be placed in less populated areas where they only affect the host landlord who is getting fully compensated, or at sea where onshore winds are probably more reliable and community members are not directly disadvantaged. I believe there are turbines designed for rooftops in high rise buildings using updrafts and the exhaust from air conditioning plant. Would not this be just as good and affect less people and reduce compensation by the developer and possible future claims against them and the government.

Can your Committee, or The Minister, or The State Government give me a guarantee of the following :-

1) There will be no detrimental medical side effects or other disadvantages to people living in the neighbourhood, or contractors working on these properties, or our livestock?

2) If you are relying on the poll conducted at the last council elections, stating 70% acceptance, will you review the conducting of that poll and if faulty, conduct a new one fully stating the concerns of those living close to the proposed sites? Will you also independently assess the model used for noise and flicker and loss of property values for the fringe land holders. Will you also review the compensation paid to all landowners affected by the development, not just those within a certain distance? Will that compensation be adequate?

3) Will the committee review the viability of other sites in less populated areas or offshore and the horizontal fans on top of buildings?

While I understand climate change issues and the need to look at alternatives to fossil fuel, there needs to be a balance and a more equitable system of compensation for all those affected . As stated earlier, we have lived in a lovely quite part of New South Wales for over 30 years. We have accepted drought, providing our own water and damage to car due to dirt roads and all the other disadvantages of rural living. Those were known when we purchased our property. I am strongly against introduced detrimental issues now that might affect my family, without due process of investigation by Government. I guess that is why you are holding your enquiry and I have made my submission. Please consider my matters and concerns raised above and satisfy me that you have covered them and are happy with the concerns of those close to these massive structures.

My email address is attached and my postal address is

I would be available to attend any investigation into my above concerns.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

John Mendl