

**Submission
No 5**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Ms Helen White

Date received: 31/07/2009

Mr Ian Cohen
Legislative Council General Purpose Standing committee No 5
Enquiry into Rural wind Farms

Dear Sir

As a concerned member of country NSW I have taken the time to research wind energy in other countries and also that which is being generated at Balaney
My findings are that they are only- at most - effective 30% of the time if you are lucky. In Canada the statistics are much less and there is a lot of the time that little or no energy is produced

They are incapable of producing base load power anywhere in the world and most areas that use off peak power, which is at night there is more often than not any wind to produce power so very little backup effect is available

How can a small area own a wind farm? or run it after construction, as is being considered
Huge companies run power stations and own them not small communities

The expense to construct a wind farm is huge, not to mention the huge amount of greenhouse gases produced during the years they take to construct and damage to small community roads and infrastructure. Having just read the EA for The KYOTO ENERGY Park proposal and living in this area for more of these small operations to be considered anywhere is lunacy. It shouldn't be being done so close to any town ever. Not in NSW how would Sydney react if you put the turbines all along the coast in Sydney where there is always wind and the greatest users of power live. There would be an uproar.

The proposal such as Silverton with 598 Turbines near an energy grid does make sense and there are very few people affected.

Values of Rural land does go down and promoters of wind farms should be put in a position of having to acquire any property within 3-5 km of the turbines (if they wish to sell the property) if its value or the vibrations that are produced by the turbines affects them. This cannot be measured by modelling before construction. Modelling is hypothetical at best and is all we have at present.

The same as has been the law with Coal mines any noise, water problems, dust, environmental problems has required the proposed mine to buy those affected. Lets see how keen these promoters are to buy affected peoples land rather than just rent 1 persons land and give no consideration to anyone else.

In the case of huge turbines many will be affected visually but not by these other problems. I know during construction phase that jobs are created but after there is almost no one left to care for the turbines.

Once the company that constructs these wind farms Who will be in charge of them? The investor is only wanting to put them up not run them they are there for the short term.

What happens 5/6 years down the track? Who will maintain them?

What happens when the life of the turbine is finished is the original investor returning to deconstruct these great monstrosities or is the small community left with rusting infrastructure as has been seen so often in the past.

Why are we not doing more with solar power? Much more predictable in this sunburnt country.

We have had solar hot water for 27 years now and for most of the year it is all we ever use.

We are all on the Band Wagon of "Climate Change" Read Ian Plimer Heaven & Earth this has all happened before. We are but a blip in the overall scheme of life on earth. The anthropogenic climate change is being done to death at present what will be the next "disaster" the likes of Al Gore will come up with.

I would like to say use wind in areas not affected by people if you must but there must be very strict conditions put on those who promote them and the government must listen to communities not just give lip service to whatever seems like something that will give them money. There are human beings out there that are affected.

If wind power was so great Why don't we all have a windmill in our own backyard to power our own needs even those in Sydney. You'd never get the support would you?

Where is the useful information on guidelines about these proposed wind farms? No one has seen it.

Please present my submission

Helen White