

**Submission
No 82**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Mr Phillip and Mrs Mary Anne Evans

Date received: 21/08/2009

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

By Phillip & Mary Anne Evans

We have been deeply involved in attempts to work together with the Glen Innes Community, The Glen Innes Severn Shire Council and the proponents of the Glen Innes Wind Farm Proposal regarding a 27 x 130+metre turbines on the Waterloo Range, 12km west of Glen Innes which extends south onto the Furracabad Valley.

Our home stands closest to these turbines – only 800 metres away – and we will be surrounded by no less than 15. We stand to lose our lifestyle, health and well being and the chronic devaluation of our property. Our 100 acre farm, which is zoned “residential” by our council, will be directly beside an industrial wind farm.

Our observation about the entire process has highlighted several keys points:

- i. The secretive nature of the establishment of such wind farms. We bought our property, having already lived in the Furracabad Valley for over 10 years, and no searches indicated any developments of wind farms. Why didn't they?
- ii. When a development application was made regarding wind monitors, and we wrote to our council seeking advice, no response was given. Our neighbour, who is placing a wind turbine 800 metres from our house, bulldozed our ‘new house’ site and not once indicated he would be placing a wind turbine 800 metres away (only 200 metres from our boundary fence). Why didn't he? He lives elsewhere by the way.
- iii. The split of the community has been enormous. The secretive nature of these companies is an attempt to “divide & conquer” the community. Setting one neighbour against another and for what? Developments can still go ahead with proper consultation and reasonable expectations from all parties.
- iv. There is a simple solution to the entire problem. A 2km buffer zone from any houses. This means developments will go ahead without destroying the lives of the people living near them. This has been established by the Glen Innes Shire Council however they are saying this community standard will not apply to our development. Why not? Greed and big business seems to be the answer.

It seems evident to us that wind energy is a big issue and if handled correctly, it can come to benefit everyone in a “win-win” situation. Nathan Rees has said that proposed wind farm developments must not ignore/trample community concerns about them, yet this is exactly what the Glen Innes Wind Farm Development is doing.

Every day we see the 2 farmers who are about to ruin our lives. We see them on the trip to town, we see them at our daughter's school, and we see them at sporting and social events.

We look at the people who are "trampling" all over us and couldn't care less about our children or us.

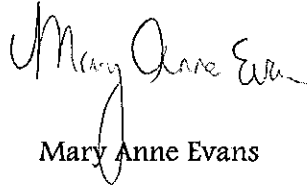
This is not Sydney, where you can avoid people who are destroying everything you have worked for. This is Glen Innes. A small town made up of community minded people who are now forced to take sides. I teach at Glen Innes High School where we teach students about morals and ethics. These adults would do well to come and listen to the youth of today to find out about what they think is fair. Children see things so clearly. They have said to me, "Why would they do that to another person?" I can't answer that, only the proponents can.

We hope you take seriously the concerns of the residents of the Furracabad Valley. A place where 27 families in the valley do not want the turbines without the 2km setback, and only 2 do – the 2 farmers getting the turbines. We are willing to help in any way to establish reasonable guidelines to what will become a bigger and bigger issue as time marches on, and we wish you well in applying justice and fairness to everyone in our community.

Yours faithfully,



Phillip Evans



Mary Anne Evans