

**Submission
No 41**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Organisation: Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Name: Mr Robert Mowle
Position: Director Environment and Planning
Date received: 19/08/2009



ABN 81 011 241 552

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

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Please quote when responding: 15.1.39

19 August 2009

The Director
General Purposes Standing Committee No.5
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

Re: Inquiry into Rural Wind Farms

I refer to advice received from Mr Ian Cohen MLC and please find attached Councils submission in respect to the above inquiry.

Council would also be pleased to make a presentation to the Committee on this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mowle'.

Robert Mowle
Director Environment and Planning
Upper Lachlan Shire Council



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SUBMISSION

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council is located on the central tablelands of NSW with offices located in Gunning, Taralga and Crookwell having an area of 7,243 square kilometers with a population of approx. 7,500 persons.

Other villages include Collector, Dalton, Binda, Bigga, Breadalbane, Laggan, Jerrawa, Grabben Gullen and Tuena.

The development of wind farms within the Upper Lachlan Council area is becoming significant and includes the following projects to date:

- Crookwell I Wind farm approved on the 14 July 1997 and operational.
8 turbines
- Walwa Wind farm approved 3 November 2004 – not operational.
31 turbines
- Crookwell II Wind farm approved 10 June 2005 (modified 29 June 2009) – not operational.
46 turbines
- Taralga Wind farm approved 17 January 2006 – not operational
62 turbines
- Cullerin Wind farm approved 21 February 2007 and operational.
15 turbines
- Gullen Range Wind farm approved 26 June 2009 –not operational
73 turbines

This totals 235 turbines and Council is aware of at least another likely 250 turbines within the near future.

From all these developments, Council's only involvement to date as a consequence of consents being issued by the NSW Department of Planning (except Walwa), has been as a party to a community enhancement program for the Cullerin development (\$25,000 per annum) and even in the operation of this program Council was side-lined to a large extent.

The extent of wind farm development in the Upper Lachlan Council area is of concern to Council and the community and it is extremely disappointing that the NSW Department of Planning does not ensure that the local community will receive any benefit from these developments in a transparent and accountable manner.

This scale of development places potentially significant adverse impacts within the Council area relating to:

- Landscape
- Property values
- Lifestyle and amenity
- Flora and fauna
- Impacted non host properties
- Impacted host residences
- Community cohesion

Council has developed a comprehensive suite of documents relating to wind farms to minimize adverse impacts and to ensure that the local community will receive some benefit from these developments in a transparent and accountable manner.

These documents include:

- Wind Power Generation Development Control Plan
- Community Enhancement Program Policy
- Planning Agreement

Committee members are urged to examine these documents and to ensure that the principles enunciated in them are incorporated as industry standards for any wind farm development in NSW.



Robert Mowle
Director Environment and Planning
Upper Lachlan Shire Council