

**Submission  
No 72**

## **INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS**

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**Date received:** 21/08/2009

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Submission to the Inquiry into rural wind farms.

The role of utility scale wind generation in

a) reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production:

While I have no expertise in the field of electricity production, it seems to me that unless some coal fired installations are scaled back or closed down there can be no reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the energy generated by wind being "on top" of that produced by coal.

b) producing off peak and base load power:

Base load power needs a steady supply generated at a constant level, which wind installations cannot guarantee, to power industry and large cities. It would be more effective to use wind power in small local areas for more specific needs than to feed it back to the grid.

Locating rural wind farms to minimize residential and environmental impacts:

Most wind farms are situated on hilltops and ridgelines, which are the natural recharge areas for water in the environment. With the proliferation of wind farms it seems inevitable that there will be a decrease in both surface water and water entering the aquifers in the region surrounding the wind towers. I have been unable to find any research which mentions this issue in the environmental impact statements required by the wind farm proponents and believe that it has not been sufficiently considered in the present climate of decreasing rainfall.

The impact of wind farms on property values:

Since the construction of a 68 turbine wind farm in our area, I have no doubt that the value of our property has decreased considerably. Many of the turbines are within 3 kms from our home and are visible from much of our property. When the turbines are operating the noise from them can be heard over the sound of the wind and other day time sounds and is most intrusive at night, audible inside the house. We chose to live in this location because of its quietness and natural beauty which have now both been destroyed.

I believe that large scale wind farms are "window dressing", that the main benefit is to the corporate sector and proponents of wind farm technology and further, that the real costs, both social and environmental, have been properly considered.

Ruth Corrigan