

**Submission
No 71**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

Name: Dr Ashley Peake

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21 August 2009

Mr Ian Cohen
Committee Chair
NSW Inquiry into rural wind farms
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000.

Dear Mr Cohen and committee members,

I am a rural General Practitioner who moved to the Furracabad Valley near Glen Innes in 2003 with my wife and two sons. I work for the New England Division of General Practice providing locum cover for their member GPs throughout the New England district.

The Division employs a locum GP because it is difficult for their members to secure locums to cover their holidays, sick leave and study leave. When I commenced this work in 2003 the position had been vacant because of the shortage of GPs willing to work in the country.

My children attend the local high school and my wife works the property and has been active on school committees and in the community.

Our lives have been turned upside down by the proposed Glen Innes Wind Farm and it appears that we will be forced to leave.

This is heartbreaking but not apparently worrying for the proponent or the Department of Planning.

Our property, "Cherry Tree" formerly known as "Eungai", is adjacent to the south eastern portion of the proposed wind farm which is near a number of residences.

The wind farm proponent did not inform us of the particulars of their plan including the proximity of turbines until we were well advanced with a major (energy efficient) home renovation.

The proponent has generally treated us and the rest of the local community with contempt.

Not much better could be said of the Department of Planning who routinely does not respond to correspondence no matter how polite!

The Department appears to have already made up its mind and will agree to turbines close to residents' homes despite adverse noise, visual, property value and health effects.

Furracabad Valley residents, the local Glen Severn Council DCP and our local member and speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Richard Torbay, all support a 2km minimum setback of turbines from homes.

What is so difficult about that in such a big country as ours?

Rural residents deserve some protection from yet another reason to leave the bush.

They and we deserve 2km setbacks.

Yours sincerely,
ASHLEY PEAKE