

Submission  
No 85

## INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

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## Submission to NSW Parliament Rural Windfarms. Facing the Real Issue.

The real issue in all this is the lack of change occurring to confront what is touted as the most serious threat to civilization/mankind yet. Put aside for a moment whether this threat is true or not or whether the skeptics are right or wrong, the reason why we are doing all this is because the government believes that human induced climate change is going to put an end to life as we know it.

My anti windfarm stance has led a number of people to accuse me of being unwilling to accept change, but the reason is actually the opposite - not enough change is happening.

A few salient facts.

- Australia is the worlds biggest exporter of coal with Newcastle the worlds biggest coal port. Plans are now underway to triple the capacity of Newcastle.
- Australias popualtion is growing more rapidly than ever. Approximately 160,000 new homes are built each year and this will no doubt increase to cover population increase. If the Boco Rock windfarm does supply power to 270,000 homes, then in under 2 years its effect will be completely negated through the number of new homes built. Far less time if the whole world GHG increase is considered.
- A new coal fired power station is being built in China every 7 to 10 days. As Nick Minchin reminded us the other day, if Australia stopped emitting all GHG's tomorrow, in nine months time the increase in Chinas CO2 would replace this saving.
- World energy consumption has been growing by 5% per annum and over the next 20 years will grow somewhere between 50 to 100%. There is no way renewables can even hope to keep up with this, let alone replacing what we currently consume, and the big increase is going to come from coal hence the development at Newcastle et al.
- Australia has adopted a GHG target of 5% less than 1990 levels if international agreement can't be reached. Garnaut has said this is hopelessly inadequate.

Some people suggest that we are seeing the first shoots of change and that slowly things will start to improve. But what we are actually seeing is politics at its worst (see Paul Kellys article in Wednesdays Australian "Renewable target is mad, bad tokenism") and a failure to face the fundamental problem in all this - that the world has reached saturation point in just about every area and we need to back off. The "Growth" mantra needs to be abandoned and we need policies to reduce population and embrace true sustainability - not be conned by terms like "sustainable growth" - an oxymoron if ever there was. Turning off lights, ticking the carbon offset box on airline tickets and putting up wind turbines is not going to make any difference at all. What needs to happen is for someone like Obama to announce at a G20 meeting that the world can no longer sustain the old model that's been in place since the industrial revolution and that we need not just change but a revolution in the way the world goes about its business.

Unless that scale of change happens I don't see the point in ruining a beautiful landscape with the attendant issues of community division, loss of property value etc for absolutely no gain.

Jim Litchfield