

**Submission  
No 24**

## **INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS**

**Name:** Mr Graham Laurie

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to the members of the general purpose standing committee No 5 (Inquiry into rural wind farms)

i am writing to you today to express my concerns about the proposed Kyoto wind farm to be located near Scone in the upper hunter valley. while i am in favour of the government trying to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production wind farms are nothing more than a political stunt that will have no great benefit to the people of NSW. the cost to install them is significant and they are highly inefficient so why would they be considered. i myself am a nuclear power fan and believe that the government should seriously consider this option as it has two benefits in that it significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and will also supply the state with base load power, which will be greatly needed in the not too distant future.

wind farms are unable and will never be able to produce base load power so why should they be considered at all because it is not like you can suddenly say we need some more power so lets turn on the wind and generate some, this is just ridiculous. they also have significant impacts on the environment and the residents. studies have even shown that local residents who live near existing wind farms are suffering medical problems as well as having their property values plummet. the environmental impacts are just as bad with the danger of wildlife flying into them and i bet nobody has asked the local kangaroo population or wombats how they feel with having to live near a constant drone from the turbines or done a study on how the drone affects their habitat. for all we know it will probably drive them away into areas that may not be suitable for them thereby risking their existence.

the local people have not been properly consulted with this proposal and have constantly been told " i can't answer that question " or "i don't know " when we have raised questions about this proposal with the developer so how can any government rule on a project without the proper consultation procedures being followed. after all we do live in a democratic society where everybody is given the chance to decide what is good and what is not and have their say and not a communist where the government says this is what we want and don't care what the local people say.

all i would like to say in finishing is that you all please understand the implications to everybody concerned and recommend that these wind farms are either located in isolated areas away from the general public or get rid of them all together and start concentrating on the future power needs of the state and country and seriously look at much better and viable alternatives such as nuclear power or gas fired power stations as both of these options are by far more beneficial to both the residents of NSW and also the environment than any form of wind farm will ever be. if you would like to contact me about my submission please do not hesitate as i am more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

i am available either via email or phone and have included my details below. thank you again for reading my submission and hope to talk to you soon.

Graham Laurie