

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to express my full support for Union Fenosa's Wind Energy Projects, Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3, on the Southern Tablelands of NSW.

I am a stakeholder and landholder in the proposed Crookwell 3 Wind Farm.

Since my family bought our property, 'Hillview Park', located at Woodhouselee, NSW, in 1989 I have been managing and operating it for 16 of the last 22 years.

Over the years we have experienced the full range of variances and volatility that comes with being a farmer in Australia. We have witnessed the undoing of the wool market in the 90's and the El Nino years of 1991, 1994 and 1997. We viewed these events as an acceptable risk in an agricultural enterprise.

However, the unending drought years of 2001-2010 have placed my farm (and others in my area) under unprecedented emotional and financial strain. At times during this period up to 100% of the State of NSW was drought declared with records being broken for lack of rainfall and moisture. In 2007, rainfall records in my area show that rainfall was at its lowest in over 100 years.

Australian farmers are first in line to feel the economic effects of drought (or flood). The warming of our planet and ensuing climate change is a commercial challenge faced by my family farming operation right now. The security of our nations food supply and valuable export markets are being challenged by weather events that could spell the end of the most efficient model of Primary Production we have - the Family Farm.

I am currently relying on 'off farm' income to help us to trade our way out of the accumulated financial difficulties we have accrued as a result of the last nine years of drought. Last year I spent 15 weeks of the year working away from home in the Steel Foundation Industry. The down side of my time spent away is the farm becomes neglected; fences fall down, weeds invade, valuable grazing crops don't get sown sown and overall production drops. It also means I am away from my wife and three young children at a time when they need the presence of their father. You

can't account for the emotional cost of not being there for your kids when they need you.

The Union Fenosa Crookwell 3 Wind Farm Project will **save my family farm**. Wind Energy Projects like it in my area will underpin the survival of many family farms like mine. Community Groups opposed to Wind Energy Projects are not serious about feeding the nation or the looming energy crisis faced by Australia. The arguments of these Groups are based on inaccurate science, fear of change and NIMBY'ism which ignores the benefits to the wider community.

As increasing demand puts pressure on energy prices and coal fired technology gets older and dirtier, we are left few real choices in terms of meeting our energy supply needs. Wind energy provides solutions that other renewable sources do not. Australians recognise the need to cut carbon emissions, and join in the global effort to stop polluting the atmosphere. We seem to have forgotten that early Australia was "Raised on the Sheep's Back" and that agriculture has always been a major contributor to our nations wealth, however climate change is having a dramatic effect on farmers ability to survive commercially. Recent weather events in Qld and Victoria ,and drought in WA only seem to support scientific predictions made fifty years ago about "The Greenhouse Effect."

I support the Wind Energy Industry 100%. We need to be producing **more** renewable clean energy, not less! The State and Federal Governments need to commit to Clean Energy and support Union Fenosa by fast tracking approvals and committing to Power Purchase Agreements that will allow the Construction Phase of Union Fenosa's development to commence.

Harvesting the wind to generate electricity is the best way to work with our natural environment and not continually against it. Wind Energy is an essential source of power for society, it is one that can have significant benefits for farming families and the wider community as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Donoghoe