

Dear Sir,

My name is Jim King & I hold 2 parcels of rural land comprising a total of 300 Ha ( 750 acres ) at Rugby in the south west slopes of NSW.

The land is quite isolated, very elevated, and is very tough country. This type of country produces very fine wool ( the tougher the country, the finer the grade of wool produced. )

At least it would if I could afford to re-stock it!

Over the past 2 –3 years I have lost all of my stock ( merino ewes ) , about 400 in all. This is a result of drought, possibly theft, and most certainly the state of my perimeter fencing.

After all of the recent rain there is abundant feed available, but I can't take advantage of this because I can't afford to replace the sheep because of the dramatic cost increases lately, and I need to spend considerable funds on the fencing. *I have a large debt on the property and my bank is currently very concerned with the loan/valuation ratio on the facility. I have no capacity available to make any improvement to my situation in the near future.*

*At present my property is included in an application before the NSW State Government to develop a wind farm in the area. This is a major infrastructure project proposed by Windlab Developments Pty Ltd and Suzlon Energy Australia. I am not qualified to comment on matters such as are wind farms a cost efficient method of providing alternative energy, but I am sure we all agree that there is a need for all alternatives to be explored, and quickly.*

*The Rugby Wind Farm project will provide tremendous financial benefits for the district. A large number of jobs will be created during and after the construction of the turbines. Windlab estimates that about \$50 million will flow into the local area as a result of this project.*

*Initial planning indicates that somewhere between 3 and 5 turbines will be erected on my property. The rental income from this is nowhere near enough for me to hang up my boots, but it will assist me in servicing my debt, and, more importantly, provide some cash flow to replace the sheep and the fences and improve the pastures. I am sure that my situation is not unique, and having a viable farming industry will flow through to the shearers, the fencing contractors, the rural supplies outlets, the wool brokers, the stores, hotels, cafe's – the community – for the next 20 - 25 years at least. This situation can be replicated across the country. You know the story!*

*Jim King*