

January 29, 2011

Dear Senator Feilding

Please accept this submission for the inquiry into the health and social effects of wind farms in rural communities.

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of the small town of Collector in the Southern tablelands. We are a small community of around 200 residents and face the possibility of having up to 80 wind turbines scattered across the hills very close to the village, in my case they are directly in front of my house, (approximately 3km), spoiling the view of the range (the very reason we moved here 5 years ago)

I aim to highlight the concerns I have in relation the health and social aspects of such a high density development in close proximity to a small rural village.

Are we to face the same peril of many other small rural communities that are torn apart by these developments? It is well documented that neighbouring families that have lived next door for generations no longer speak to each other. Their children mimic the parent's behavior in schools leading to segregation and bullying. Is this the example we should be setting for our kids?

It is plain to see why these communities are targeted by large corporations. They are small and have little or no voice to fight. There is a distinct lack of community consultation by Transfield given the magnitude of what we are facing. Why is it, as a small landowner I must submit a DA for any intended works over 2 metres in height and Transfield are able to build 80 structures 150 metres tall without any consultation with neighbours and effected parties? Oh, because its green energy I hear them saying.

A small amount of research soon shows how green they really are! The desecration of landscape to get heavy machinery in to the sites which contributes to erosion and unsightly scaring. 300 tonnes of concrete per pylon (known to be a huge contributor to green house gas emissions in itself) not to mention permanent land fill. Will this be removed after the service life of the turbines? I don't think so.

We are told there is no effect on land values. As we are in the process of putting our house on the market, we will see first hand what effect this will have as we had the house valued well before the announcement by Transfield.

There is wide documentation of adverse health effects from living near wind turbines. It seems all these warnings are ignored by Governments around the world. WHY? If the government can afford to heavily subsidise the turbines at great expense, why are they not able to put a small proportion of money towards real research into effects for those people living next to wind farms?

Our country is over 98% unpopulated! It seems staggering that wind farms are not put in

the vast amount of desert we have-we are told by the developers they need to be 'located near the grid'. It sounds like it just cost too much to 'create a grid' It means putting up more 400-500 kv transmission towers. The developers should be made to foot this bill and I can assure you there would be little or no public outcry?

If these turbines are not ugly and have no ill effects on health, why are they not all over North Head, Bondi beach, and perhaps Mosman? Certainly no shortage of wind there, and they are certainly 'near the grid' The answer is clear. The residents support green energy as long as it's not in my backyard.

A recent resident survey in Collector has revealed as much as 95% of the residents are against the proposed development. Many have suggested that the land holders (some of them absentee landowners) should share the money dollar for dollar with the community for the creation of parks, bike paths, walking trails etc in the town. The Collector resident survey is attached for your perusal.

I, along with so many other local landowners in Collector hope this wind farm does not do ahead and destroy yet another small country town.

Sincerely

Rob Broadbent

Approx 2-3ks away from nearest turbine.