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9 February 2011

Commonwealth Senate Wind Farm Enquiry Submission

Please accept this submission from our very personal perspective of the negative impact of wind farms on our lives, and lifestyle, particularly the proposed Collector Wind Farm project.

We would firstly point out that we are already affected by the 15 wind turbines at the Cullerin Range Wind Farm constructed a couple of years ago. We suffer full visual impact from our rural home and from our paddocks of these structures.

If the Collector Wind Farm project proceeds, the majority of the wind turbines will be situated on our neighbouring property, "Lerida", and will have a huge impact on us. This is unfair, undesirable and unreasonable.

We have worked hard all our lives, and have now passed retirement age. We are currently trying to sell our property "Woolloowarre" so that we can enjoy a well-earned retirement. Obviously, the proposed Collector Wind Farm is foremost in prospective purchasers' minds who are naturally reluctant to commit to purchasing our place. It would seem that our long-held fears that the value of our property is diminishing as a result of the influx of existing and proposed wind turbines are being realised. Will anyone compensate us for our financial loss due to the proposed wind farm?? The landholders upon whose land the turbines are situated will be handsomely financially compensated.

We understand that wind farm developers are not required to assess the effect of the proposal on surrounding land values, and that there is no ongoing government research about the effects of wind farms on rural property values.

The harmonious nature of our rural community has been shattered and the community is now divided.

City people are free to enjoy the views they choose, so why is it OK to contaminate our beautiful rural views which consist of native flora and fauna, lovely bush, trees and rolling hills – upon which is now being constructed huge steel wind turbine structures and turning the landscape into an industrial site. Not fair!

It would appear that the development of wind farm projects are shrouded in secrecy, and negotiations appear to secretly take place with the landholders who will benefit financially whilst all others are left in the dark. The publicised Community Open Days reveal where the turbines will be located and comment is invited. This seems to be shutting the gate after the horse has bolted!

Wind farm developers should be required to also provide cash bonds to guarantee the

removal of wind turbines, and the remediation of the countryside.

Wind farms are not economic – they are constructed at great expense and the power generated has to be used when the wind is turning the turbines, the power cannot be stored. If wind farms were efficient, electricity prices would not be skyrocketing.

Solar power would surely have less impact on the community.

If governments were serious about “green” energy, perhaps more attention should be focused on everyone doing their bit, especially with new house and office constructions being built to environmental standards with each to contribute to generating their own power with either solar panels or wind turbines on each construction.

Governments seem to be deliberately ignoring the negative effect of wind farms in their attempt to be seen to be doing something about global warming. A band aid measure at best. Addressing the causes of global warming would surely be the most sensible path to follow.

We trust the foregoing will be given due consideration and support.

Allen and Ann Lees