



**Preston
Rowe
Paterson**



2 August 2011

Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

RE: Inquiry into the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms

I refer to your letter of 26 July 2011 offering a reply to the submission of David Brooks.

Mr Brooks seems to be under the impression this was a desktop survey. It was not. All wind farms and sales were physically inspected, conversations were had with agents and valuers in the areas where wind farms were present. Similarly, where possible and practical, some purchasers were interviewed. However, the primary purpose of this survey was to ascertain if the anecdotal assertions, both for and against, or similar to those postulated by Mr Brooks, were supported by actual sales data. To conduct further subjective analysis would, to some extent, defeat the original intent of the exercise to rely on hard data.

I strongly object to Mr Brooks' suggestions that our conclusions, or definitive lack thereof, were sponsored by the government and the wind energy industry to achieve a predetermined result. We were appointed by the Valuer-General to provide an independent assessment based on hard data and such an assertion is a slight on my professional integrity.

I stand by my conclusions that, at the date of the report, the presence of wind farms did not appear to have a quantifiable effect on property values based on the sales evidence available at the time.

Yours sincerely
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rrd:ko

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