

To the Committee,

My name is Janine Hannan and my family own a property at Roslyn, near Crookwell, in the Southern Tablelands. We are diagonally opposite the site of the Crookwell 2 wind farm and the nearest turbine will be sited approximately 500 metres from our boundary fence. We have been at "Rosslyn" for 20 years and did not know of the impending wind farms at that time. I doubt if we would have bought into the area with that knowledge. We have a 5 acre "Paul Sorensen" designed garden surrounding our home and we have opened our garden over the years to raise money for the Spastic Centre, over \$50,000 to date.

My submission is as follows;

re (a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms

There has been much research done overseas by internationally renowned Canadian Dr Nina Pierpont MD Ph D, and in Australia, Dr Sarah Laurie is actively working on what is known as "Wind Turbine Syndrome", which is a debilitating health problem and people all over the world are feeling the effects. Some of the symptoms include sleep deprivation, headaches, nausea, anger, tinnitus, heart palpitations and depression. A prior resident of a Waubra property in Victoria gave evidence in South Australia in the Environment Resources and Development Court on January 17th this year, of the problems associated with living in close proximity to a wind farm.

re (b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes

I personally have concerns regarding Crookwell 2, as anecdotal evidence as suggested by my comments in (a) that the noise and vibrations (also known as infrasound) which cannot be measured in DBA's. Unfortunately, at present, the DBA system is the only one to be used. Fritz Vandenberg has done a study into the levels of infrasound and how far they carry on still nights etc.

re (c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income

I believe our 4500 acre property which is prime grazing land, has been devalued by as much as \$3 million. Tree changers are reluctant to buy properties anywhere near wind farms. We have some neighbours who are so adversely affected that they cannot sell their property even if they wanted to. With regard to employment, proponents of wind farms are quick to say there will be plenty of opportunities for local people, but as Crookwell 2 is not up and running as yet, we still do not know what opportunities there will be in the long term.

re (d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms

At present, developers of wind farms do not have to comply with local council's DCP's., only with state government regulations. Even though the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee No 5's Enquiry into Rural Wind Farms recommended that turbines should not be built within 2 kms from non-host dwellings, the developer does not have to comply.

re (e) Any other relevant matters

With regard to Crookwell 2, the DA and subsequent modification application was granted for work to begin on July 2009. With 3 days to go before the approval lapsed, the developer placed a few demountable buildings on site with a fence around and called that a start. To date, no other work has commenced, no turbines delivered, no roads built, ZERO.

This has made our lives miserable, we complained to the State Planning Department and they would not even come and look at the site, they said they would take the developers word for it that a start had been made. We still have no idea when a "real" start will be made and so we live in limbo, with the knowledge our little piece of paradise will be no more.

My suggestion is that the Planning Department must enforce a real start date which means having the whole project up and running by the time the approval lapses, and Part 3A and wind precincts such as is in the Southern Tablelands be abolished.

There are a number of other concerns with regard to wind farms. Chief among them is the very real risk of fire, as there is a no-fly zone above wind farms, the fires can not be put out aerially and fire fighters must wait until the fire hits the ground (having been flung some distance by the blades) Very dangerous. Bird and bat decimation, visual amenity, loss of iconic landscapes are all of real concern. Finally, both State and Federal governments continue to ignore scientific evaluations, wind energy does not reduce emissions and is extremely costly, there will be not one coal or gas fired power plant shut down as wind cannot replace base-load power. There are many alternatives to wind; geothermal, wave power, solar and even excrement to generate power. Not to mention nuclear power which is the cleanest alternative we have.

Yours Sincerely  
Mrs Janine Hannan