



## **The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**

**Attention: Christina Schwarz**

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### **I wish to make the following Submission in opposition of wind farms.**

My partner and I purchased a property on Little Plains Road which Settled late November 2010. We went through a rather long Exchange period of over six months due mostly to slow solicitors. We eventually moved in mid December 2010, checked our mail box for the first time to find a small notice advising of a meeting regarding the Rugby Wind Farms. The meeting had already been held the week before and this was the first we knew about any proposed wind farm developments for the area.

As the weeks passed we gradually learnt through neighbours of the extent of the proposals – three for the general area – Rugby, Rye Park and Bango. We began to realise that our idyllic home in the country would be surrounded by approximately 300 turbines approximately 150 metres tall.

We had done all the right things and asked all the right questions prior to buying however as the Local Councils are not involved in the development process they honestly knew nothing when asked by our solicitor. We asked the Real Estate Agent who told us nothing was planned for the area. The previous owners were fully aware as our neighbour has agreed to host the turbines. Had we known we would not have purchased the property. Perhaps that is why no-one told us – they realised it was a negative attribute for a potential buyer.

We have received no contact from any of the wind farm developers. They have not come to us to offer any information. The only information we have been able to obtain is from our neighbours.

We believe that all industrial wind turbine developments should be halted until further research is conducted into the health issues for people and stock, to determine safe distances from homes, to confirm all decommissioning details so farmers are not left with the cost and burden of disposal – above and below ground, to determine if such developments are creating a fire risk for farmers as the turbines can and do explode but can not be put out by rural fire services, to check current research into better, more efficient forms of not just wind energy but all forms of renewable energy to ensure we are using the best technology, to stop tearing rural communities apart by the conflict these developments cause – pitting neighbour against neighbour.

We want to know why industrial wind turbines are not placed on high rise buildings- which is done overseas - in city areas where most of the power generated is used and believe that the money spent on industrial wind turbine farms would be better spent on installing solar panels on individual homes to reduce grid electricity consumption and power bills.

There are many more reason why we oppose these developments and we hope that you will at the very least halt all current and future developments to allow more research – unbiased by the wind turbine development companies – to be conducted.

Many thanks and regards

Veronica Collins (and Keith Smith)

Rye Park, NSW

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ACT FORESTS

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