

# Rydal District Landholders Association

## The Case Against!

### Why We Are Opposed To Wind Turbines In Our Area

April 2003

In late 2001 and early 2002, land holders in the Rydal/Sodwalls/Hampton district of NSW, were approached by owners of the Hickory Hill, (Nr Hampton) wind power development, to consider the possible erection of wind turbines on their properties. Further offers soon followed from other developers.

Our district is located along and beside the Great Dividing Range stretching from Mt Lambie (on the Great Western Hwy) to the village of Hampton. Generally speaking this is a most beautiful scenic area immediately to the west of the Blue Mountains and of course, the heritage listed, Blue Mountains National Park.

Our Association (RDLA) was formed because we as residents became extremely concerned that our area would be dramatically affected by the negative effects of wind turbines and also by the associated infrastructure required to support these proposed developments.

One land holder has agreed to the erection of a **Wind Monitoring Mast**, (now already in place), by Pacific Power International, at **Jerry's Mountain** for testing purposes. The mast is to establish whether or not this is a suitable location for wind turbine development. RDLA believes this action by Pacific Power **is the prelude** to the eventual application by Pacific Power (to Lithgow Council) for the erection of **numerous** wind turbines in our area.

RDLA therefore opposed the granting of the Development Application for the **Monitoring Mast** by Lithgow Council. Whilst we had some solid support from a number of councillors, the application was granted, on the basis that the decision did in no way imply that Pacific Power would receive a favourable outcome, if and when, it reapplied to erect wind turbines in or around the same area.

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## Issues To Note

1. Wind turbines are **never** invisible. They impact visually on the landscape. They have a visual effect for many kilometres beyond the property on which they are built. These towers can now be up to 100m in height and the propeller diameter as wide as the length of a 747 jet airplane.(**see Newspaper Clippings item (Giants of the Air)**).
2. Whilst there are some people who find structures such as wind turbines, or even power transmission towers, to be attractive, most people who have seen major wind power developments up close, in Australia or overseas, find them to be unattractive, perhaps even oppressive. (**see Pictures**).
3. Wind turbines usually have negative impacts on heritage, tourism and lifestyle. (**see Videos**).
4. Most people would accept that there are places where it is not appropriate to erect wind turbines. Most notable examples would be the **North** or **South Heads** of Sydney (although the wind conditions may be ideal!) or **Mt Kosciusko**. Drawing the line between acceptable and unacceptable sites for wind turbines is an issue for community concern and government responsibility.

### **We Do Not Believe That The Rydal and Surrounding District Is An Appropriate Site For Wind Power Development**

Please [browse](#) through our CD, there is a lot of information on wind power and it's disadvantages, and reasons why people are opposed to it in the **Wrong Places!**

We believe it is also inappropriate for "planning" to be driven by power producers nominating sites where they want to erect wind turbines, and then being dealt with on the basis of separate development applications to the relevant approval authority. There is considerable need for national, state and local governments to undertake long term planning processes with suitable or unsuitable locations for wind turbines being **clearly** defined and identified. Wilderness areas, national parks, places of outstanding beauty, important heritage areas and significant tourist destinations should be made **immune** from the erection of wind turbines and the visual and other numerous social and environmental problems they create.

The **Rydal** area is clearly visible from western parts of the Blue Mountains National Park, a World Heritage Site. We believe it should be protected from the negative visual intrusion of wind turbines and that this western edge of the Great Dividing Range should be completely free of any attempt to develop wind power and it's associated required infrastructure.

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2003 Lithgow City Council issued a **DRAFT Wind Energy Generation Facilities Development Control Plan (see attached)** to apply to all land in the Greater Lithgow Area, specifying “the requirements for Wind Energy Generation facilities designed for the purpose of commercial electricity generation within the Greater Lithgow Area”. RDLA is now currently studying this document and will in due course make submissions to Lithgow City Council regarding the controls/ criteria contained therein. Public meetings organised by Lithgow City Council were held on the 19, 26 & 27th of March 2003 at Rydal Showground, Hampton Halfway Hotel, and Portland concerning the Draft DCP.

Comments from the only two land holders at the Portland meeting who wish to erect wind turbines on their properties, confirmed that detailed plans are underway for a \$30m development involving a minimum of 12 turbines at the Jerry’s Mountain site. RDLA firmly believes that very shortly after the final DCP is issued by council that an Application will be lodged by Pacific Power to proceed on this development.

Please contact us if you would like any further information.