



## **The Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the social and economic impact of rural wind farms – Submission**

I would like to ask a few important questions about the proposed wind farm in the Collector area:

1. Has the cumulative impact of these wind farms been taken into consideration? The number of planned turbines for the region is beyond comprehension - 80 above the township of Collector alone?
2. How will we know the impact these turbines are having on our native wildlife if a comprehensive study of the area is not conducted before the turbines are in place and operational?
3. Has consideration been taken for land owners who are subjected to all the negatives of the turbines but not eligible for any of the benefits e.g. the cash being thrown at the "hosting" landowners and Council?
4. Has Government considered the impact that the "uncertainty" is creating in not only those area's already earmarked for these developments – but for all rural communities?
5. Has Government read all the research coming out of countries like the United States which clearly shows the health implications associated with turbines the size of those planned for Collector and the region?
6. Has Government actually looked at the efficiency and sustainability of these developments? If so, there would not be a wind farm in Australia – the evidence is clear – wind technology is inefficient, unreliable, and expensive.

When the first small wind turbines in our area were built along the Crookwell Road they created interest and became a local attraction.

Is this still the Government's intention; to create a tourist attraction? (There is mounting evidence that wind technology is inefficient, expensive and will be superseded by solar and other technologies in the near future) Only a 40 minute drive to the Capital of Australia. I don't think tourists flying or driving into Canberra want any more of our unique Australian landscape blurred by these inefficient monstrosities. The novelty has long since vanished; if action isn't taken now to stop and really analyse the impact both negative and positive of these developments - we will be left with a cancer curse on our communities.

I was very interested to hear that these towers are built in Finland and then shipped to Australia and then transported up the Freeway. Is it the Government's policy to keep the balance of trade with Finland? I would suggest that Finland is well ahead financially in this matter.

As a local real estate agent I am puzzled by the regulations and development plans of

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the surrounding councils who are allowing these inefficient and expensive monstrosities to be built over our landscape.

If a family wanting to build a home on 100 acres agreed to demolish it in 20 years (the turbines only have an approximate lifespan of 20 years) would they be allowed to build it today?

We do have to live with the inefficient and expensive monstrosities already forced upon us. But I plead with the Government to not proceed with any new developments until the negatives and positives are clear.

I have no doubt in the history of renewable energy that solar power is more reliable, less intrusive on the landscape and also friendlier to the landscape and livestock.

I hope my small input helps with the Government seeing reason and taking into consideration all of the alternatives.

Regards  
**Sue Bell**

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