

# COLLECTOR RESIDENTS WIND FARM GROUP

## SURVEY RESULTS

Total Surveys returned =63

"Yes" answers in red

"No" answers in green

Q1.

Is the proposed wind farm going to have an impact on you?

Yes 49

No 14

If yes, please check the boxes below to indicate how you believe the proposed wind farm will affect you.

Visually (aesthetically / sun flicker) 44 / 0    Noise 25 / 0    Environment 42 / 0

Road Damage 32 / 0    Financially (Real Estate Value) 45 / 0

Social Impact 36 / 0    Health (Noise / Sun Flicker) 30 / 0

Q2.

Do you feel appropriately informed about the consultative process of the proposed wind farm?

Yes 3 / 7

No 39 / 1

Undecided 5 / 0

**Q3.**

Do you support the construction of the Collector Wind Farm?

Yes 4/ 7

No 42

Undecided 3

**\*\*\*YES / NO COMMENTS RECEIVED ARE BELOW.....**

## COMMENTS

### “Yes it does have an impact” Responses

Wind farming is a great idea however long term impacts need to be compensated by long term support ie long term / ongoing support for community by supporting local initiatives capped at a maximum per annum, discounts on electricity bills, organic and environmental knowledge support for local farmers and business, support to OCA, CWA, Pot Black Club, Fire brigade, Trust Boards etc.  
Thank you for all your efforts.

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It appears wind is possibly not a suitable idea:

- a) Financially
- b) the technology will soon be out of date.

I feel they are being rushed to get the 20 renewable energy target.

They have problems deploying other government (green) initiatives.

If the town was asked by Transfield as to what could be done for the town, that would change my feeling a lot.

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I do not believe there has been thorough consultation to the Collector wind farm. There are little benefits for those most affected. Major concern is health / noise and then a probable drop in property values.

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We strongly oppose the wind farm, it is not of benefit to the community, the environment, or aesthetic values.

As Collector locals, we love the surrounding environment for its natural and historical uniqueness. In this world of commercialisation, where the \$ drives power, we would be extremely disappointed for Collector to be a victim.

The only benefactors are the energy co, who are only interested in the bottom line. We did not move to Collector to live with these structures. There is much research to suggest this is not a long term green energy solution and the amount of destruction (on environment, financial, social and cultural levels) involved in their construction is too gross to ever return a net return to the local community. We support the CCA to act on our behalf to ensure that the Collector township is not impacted by the construction and subsequent operation of these unwanted, eye- and ear-sores.

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It would be a desecration of a wonderful rural landscape, so that a small number of landowners and Transfield can make windfall profits at the expense of the rest of the community.

Worse still – wind turbines are expected to be obsolete technology in 4/5 years.

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Our decision to move here was largely based on our view of the range which will now be spoiled due to the close proximity of the turbines. We feel the village should benefit financially more than the landowners.

Council should not be responsible for managing such a fund.

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I am firmly against this development.

Just a suggestion, if you also use the Lake George wind farm as a comparison, tell people how many turbines are there (20? 30?) and how far away they are in comparison (10ks) it may shock people to think that there will be far more and much closer in Collector.

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They should locate these industrial wind farms down near the cities that are using most of the power and leave the rural areas to generate their own unobtrusive energy, such as the solar grid connect system.

You get the feeling that these wind towers will be dinosaurs in no time at all and these companies will move on once they are unviable.

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Wind farms must pay their way and must not generate profits for few at the expense of many.

Wind farms should pay 'one for one' with the affected community paid as much annually as the 'host' landholders. Then it is not a 'have' and 'have not' impact on a usually happy community.

Developers / owners should pay for ongoing noise monitoring.

Financial bonds should be paid up front by developers to guarantee removal of towers once they are decommissioned. Looming price parity with solar will make wind farms obsolete within 5-10 years yet towns are likely to be a scar on our landscape for up to 50 years.

Financial bonds should be paid by developers to assist cash strapped council repair public roads damaged by wind farm activity.

Genuine community consultation in place, not token 'tick the box' activity.

NSW Govt and its public service should balance its focus by supporting community not wind farms 'at all costs'

Open public debate on the relevance and future of wind farms given they are being overtaken by solar power by 2014.

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The electronic survey is very good work – but not everybody in town/ district is on email lists or into stuff on-line. There needs to be a hard copy survey in peoples letterboxes too.

It is also generally important that people talk about it as to clarify what is going on and built a community consensus.

There needs to be a lot more research re noise and other factors.

The committee needs to develop some sort of plan of attack, eg. get commitments from State politicians to repeal item 3A of the NSW Planning Act (under which this is being done with any regard for other legislation or people).

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We moved to Collector because it is a quiet and pretty village. We are aware that there aren't many amenities and that's ok for us because our beautiful view across the escarpment more than makes up for this. The construction of the wind farm so close to the village will destroy the beautiful rural outlook we have and remove our most important reason for living here. We support green energy initiatives, but wind technology is fast becoming outdated and the associated social and economic disparity problems for land holders and neighbour cannot easily be addressed.

The wind farm will have a huge negative impact on many people in the area and once it is there Collector will never be the quiet, sleepy town it is now again.

We strongly oppose the project!

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STRONGLY OPPOSE THE COLLECTOR WIND FARM:

Wind mill technology is proving to be at the end of its life.

Solar ?– better option.

Please be aware of the 'accumulative effect' of multiple wind farms in a district. This is a criteria the Environmental Assessment must take into account and report on it. Given Cullerin and Lake George (including new proposed wind farm adjacent), surely this community has 'given' enough of its social, environmental and financial capacities to the green – energy and Government initiatives.

This can be won on a political front.

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I agree that greener, more sustainable options to provide Australia's power should be adopted.

However, I believe that the proposed site of the Collector wind farm will have a negative impact on the landscape and the heritage value of the village.

The proposed turbines will be far too close to the village.

The wind farm at Crookwell is 10 kilometres out of town and not visible from town.

Solar and geothermal power generating methods are much more efficient, cost effective, less visually offensive and quieter options.

Previous construction of wind turbines has, in many cases destroyed wild life habitat, caused erosion, damaged local roads and polluted natural water courses.

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My partner and I purchased a block of land in Collector [REDACTED] earlier this year, being completely unaware of the proposed wind farm. We purchased out of Canberra for the peaceful lifestyle and the pristine views this block afforded us. Now after attending the meeting held by Transfield, we see the damage to our views the proposed wind farm will cause. The turbines / fans would be environmental and visual pollution. The effect would be a reduction in the value of our land and a huge reduction in the personal value of the block as a lifestyle choice. The home we had planned was to be northerly aspected with glass along the north wall to take advantage of the unspointl views. Now, we are faced with having this ruined as the entire view takes in every one of the 80 proposed turbines and I am reluctant to go ahead with any building plans as a result. This wind farm proposal has ruined our plans for our future and I believe we would be unable to sell the block without a significant loss as a result. I want an assurance this plan won't go ahead, or I want a significant financial compensation instead so we can find a block elsewhere without our plan being destroyed by a power company.

We are planning to be self sufficient in regards to power with solar and our own small wind turbine (out of view), so we would be doubly-disadvantaged by having to pay for our own self sufficiency and pay for other people who aren't prepared to do this by having our lifestyle ruined by a power company. Curse them.

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If the community decides that it would like to fight this issue that is fine. We need to be mindful that while this has an emotional effect on members of the community, it is not an emotional issue for the developers, their primary obligation is to shareholders and ensure they may maintain a return for those who invest in the company. As such, all arguments need to be economically rather than emotionally

based. Emotional arguments (not matter how deeply it cuts for us) will not have an impact on the developers or legislators.

It is also a little naïve to want to stop this at all costs with an argument that no amount of compensation will make a difference. The village will end up with a wind farm and no improvements to infrastructure. Compensation will not only act as a lever, it will provide a benefit to the community should the wind farm ..?? (go ahead?) Try and avoid some of the issues Breadalbane has faced; use the trust managed by independent trustees, could administer the money. The community as a whole could also vote on options such as renovation of the hall, upgrading the oval, putting in a children's park, are all options.

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The Federal Government has been elected with a policy of 20% renewable energy by 2020. Wind power energy is one of the options. At the last election some Collector residents voted for the Labour and Greens Party's who had the above policy. How hypocritical if these people are against the Collector wind farm. Also, the Hunter Valley Coal Mines are an environmental eyesore and yet this is where the bulk of the electricity comes from.

The Collector wind farm proposal has been around for about 10 years, this area has been monitored and researched for appropriate wind speed etc, which must have proven to be adequate for the generation of electricity for 80,000 households or even more under good conditions.

Therefore had residents buying in the Collector area over the last 10 years done any research, this wind farm should be no surprise to them, so they should live with their real estate decision and continue getting on life.

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I am concerned the CCA Wind Farm Committee is actually an anti-wind farm committee. If this group is representing the community via CCA it should not hold a view for or against. It should instead collect views from the community and if possible circulate accurate unbiased info re the ?? and ?? of wind farms.

For me, one great positive for the community is the possible investment in the community by the wind farm company. The Hall and Oval and potentially the school could benefit from donations as well as the whole community from the jobs the project creates.

I appreciate that others feel strongly against the project but it is NOT the CCA's job to bully the community into the loudest voices views.

If the wind farm proceeds' what benefits will the community have? Eg road upgrades including sealing the road to Gunning and Gundaroo from Collector.

Will funding be put into the community to improve facilities etc?

What direct impacts will be on Collector?

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We don't object to the concept of wind farms but this is too close to the village – aesthetically and possible noise.

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Rural communities are treated as an obstacle to be dealt with rather than respected and informed. In my experience of wind farm development information is collated and disseminated in an ad hoc manner and details are usually only forthcoming after perseverance with the developer be individuals. The wind farm process is a plundering of rural Australia by corporations chasing a bottom line under the cloak of "green energy".

If wind farms are a necessary part of "the solution" the process has to be transparent and a whole of community compensation approach taken, otherwise the consequences can be devastating.

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This proposal has the potential to devastate the environmental, ecological and social framework that Collector community has come to love and enjoy.

We moved from interstate 6 years ago and were drawn to Collector for its unique village appeal, rural aspect and uninterrupted views.

The impact such work will have on our surrounds and the long term effects are at this point in time, incomprehensible. On completion, the damage is irreversible.

Our future plans to remain living here in our family home are being revisited and reassessed as a result of this development. We feel our investment here is in jeopardy.

We are appalled by the lack of resident consultation. The provision of glossy publications reflecting desperate landscaped and text made up of 'motherhood' statements does not suffice. Collector is a well educated community. We know from our photo collection looking out from the nominated range is far from this.

We respect and totally understand that there will be a different range of opinions and differing views with regard to this proposal, however we do not support this concept.

Thanks.

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**HUGE Fire Danger!**

No wind turbines are being fitted with automated wind turbines fire extinguishing systems. Our community members are expected to fight industrial fires because the developers do not want added expense of such fitted fire prevention systems!

'Walwa' Developers also owns Cathedral Rocks wind farms near Port Lincoln which went on fire at 1.00am and was noticed by a passing boats in February 2009!

'Walwa', Gunning, Cullerin and Collector are built and are being built near bushlands and too close to communities thus endangering our lives.

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Attached letter from Sue Bell sent to Nick Valentine of Transfield, Sam Haddard Director General of Planning, Hon Tony Kelly MLC

\*\*\*"NO" COMMENTS RECEIVED ARE BELOW.....

## “No it does not have an impact” Responses

Received information package in mail today (from Transfield). Answers most of my questions.

NB No road damage as access will not be through Collector. Too far away for noise impacts – Highway is much noisier than any wind farm could be.

Was concerned about aviation lights but these are not going to be used and the Cullerin ones have been switched off.

Visual : Sun flicker is rubbish – have been to Cullerin to see for myself. To begin with visual impact is daunting but soon get used to it and it becomes part of the landscape – hardly glance at Lake George turbines anymore.

I fully support renewable energy – must phase out coal fire generators. Wind won't do this on its own but we need to start somewhere. This is a great initiative – we are lucky to have it proposed for the Collector region. It will create jobs and provide funds for community projects.

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Committee should ensure our town benefits from funding directly, rather than council re-directing funds to outside projects. ie.

- Oval Project
- Playground
- Community Hall
- Swimming Pool etc

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Although the wind farm will not DIRECTLY impact on m, I believe there are already enough wind farms on the landscape around Collector – all of which are visible on the highway – and that another one will render an over-concentration of wind farms in the region in a radius of approx. 20 – 30 km.

If it is inevitable that that this wind farm is to proceed, then Collector (and surrounds) residents need to see this as an opportunity to secure maximum benefits for the village of Collector in the way of additional resource or public infrastructure developments, much in the same way Breadalbane has successfully done. More specifically lobby for funds for redevelopment of the hall, a new community bus, a swimming pool or new improvements to the oval as compensation for the aspects of the project that will have adverse affects on the community. Another suggestion would be to approach the developers requesting them be a major sponsor for the Pumpkin Festival.

Secondly, regarding concerns over what would happen to the site once the wind farm was decommissioned, ensure there are clauses in the planning permission / EIS / EA and in the contract with the developer stipulating that all visible traces of the wind farm are removed and the landscape is returned to its original state.

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**Q2. Comment** - Do you feel appropriately informed about the consultative process of the proposed wind farm?

Very limited information provided to those who didn't have an opportunity to attend meetings.

**Q3. Comment** -Do you support the construction of the Collector Wind Farm?

Depending on size, noise lights, chosen location, tourism opportunity for town if constructed right. Make sure property's existing in the area are not devalued with any proposed effects listed in the Development Approval.

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As long as the turbines are a reasonable distance from dwellings (1-1.5kms) we support the proposed wind farm. If we can utilise a resource (wind) to create something we all use (electricity)- Why not!! Those people who are so against wind farms and who live a considerable distance from them- need to ask themselves some serious questions – How are they actually hurting you???

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"Why no names and phone numbers of this committee – we put ours on"

## **CCA Wind Farm Committee**

We all like the idea of renewable energy. Be it Solar, wind or nuclear energy. We know the world has to make an effort. Firstly I would like to see some money being spent on advertising, teaching people how to save energy domestically.

However I feel this 'BULL DOZER ' intervention the government is taking regarding wind turbines seems just another example of bad management of our taxes. From all accounts these wind turbines do not run as an efficient business. It appears to be a dodgy project that requires a lot more research. Large amounts of money seem to be thrown at this project. Is it perhaps for political advantage, with out thinking through the broader issues?

It disappoints me to see how it is dividing our small country community. Once farmers helped each other in times of stress and had a bond of friendship fighting fires, floods and drought. It is so sad to see this being destroyed. There appears to be a lot of secrecy and greed being displayed by potential landholders when offers of money are made, even absentee landlords. It appears to be instigated by these companies as Transfield and the government.

I do not like the infrastructure and energy that is spent on building these large intrusive towers, and I hate to see the scaring of our beautiful ridges and hills with these massive roads required to build these towers. It does not seem like good sense to me.

It concerns me about what happens to these structures when they become redundant in 10- 20 years time. I would like to see that someone is responsible for their demolition

at such a time. A trust fund should be part of all negotiation, insuring that they cannot be just sold on.

One wonders what are the concerns for wildlife with the blades of the turbines at 1 hectare.

I personally do not want to live beside an industrial estate, so I guess that has a bearing on how potential buyers view our real estate values.

I cannot help ask the question, why is there no suggestion of wind turbines on the Northern beaches of Sydney or at the heads or National Parks?

Australia is such a large country with land to spare. I feel that most of us would be happy to generate our own power in the country; therefore I would like to see more research being made with solar energy, which in my mind is not as intrusive as wind power.

# CCA WIND FARM COMMITTEE

If you require more surveys, please email [samithom333@hotmail.com](mailto:samithom333@hotmail.com)

## YOUR COMMENTS

The construction of wind turbine towers is another example of government intervention - intervention into our rural ambience.

The towers will give the Collector Village an industrial park look.

The more information that becomes available the more it becomes clear ~~as~~ that the government is using our tax money to build an uneconomic way of generating energy.

The cost to the community is the biggest cost of all. Creating the "haves and have nots" is a high price for ~~an~~ dodgy energy project. What about the absentee landlords?

We sincerely thank you for your time.

# CCA WIND FARM COMMITTEE

If you require more surveys, please email [samithom333@hotmail.com](mailto:samithom333@hotmail.com)

## YOUR COMMENTS

There should be better communication between a consultation with Windfarm operators. They should be aware of opposition. That will be natural. But they are here to stay and should be encouraged to be good community citizens and encouraged to pursue community benefit programmes in the mould of the Scotia Trust.

Community consultative committees should be more broadly based and represent the whole community not just landholders with wind-farms on them.

Windfarm operators need to brush up on their Public Relations so that they don't offend so many people in the communities in which they wish to operate.

We sincerely thank you for your time.



19 November 2010

## Wind Farm Mania

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

When the first small wind towers 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? Only a 40 minute drive to the Capital of Australia. I don't think tourists flying or driving into Canberra want any more of lovely Australian landscape blurred by these monstrosities. The novelty has long since vanished; we will now be left with a cancer curse on our community.

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 the surrounding councils who are allowing these 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 would they be allowed to build it today?

We do have to live with the monstrosities already forced upon us. But I plead with the Government to not proceed with the development 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 more 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