

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Aleesa Stafford, I am 17yrs old, nearly 18 and have lived on a sheep and beef farm all of my life. I am writing this letter to hopefully give you an insight on a kid's opinion towards wind farms.

Being apart of River health conferences through school and seeing effects that global warming is having lately I believe that turbines are the right option. They're really not that bad for the community, they're not extremely hard on the eye or the landscape, I don't see what people are complaining about. I have slept under them before and even ridden my horse all around them and had no problems with them.

There is a proposed wind farm to go on my parent's property, unfortunately there has been for the last 10yrs and they're STILL not here. I'm unsure whether or not you see how beneficial the turbines are to our family. As far as I can remember money has always been a problem for our family living on the farm. My mother has had to work a full time job all throughout our childhood, it has been our father who has put us on the school bus each day. I can remember always going to the school canteen where many mothers had been volunteering for the day when I was younger and my brother and I always wanted our mum to work on the canteen for a day but she couldn't because she had to work. If we had turbines on our farm during this time we would have an extra income and my mother would have been there throughout our childhood.

If we wanted to play a sport or go to the movies we had to travel half an hour into town and as the fuel prices increased it became very expensive to get into town and the trips became limited. The turbines are just what each country family needs, costs are growing each day and there are so many more farms coming up on the market each time you read the newspaper. Having grown up on the farm I wouldn't change it, I would give ANYTHING to keep this place and I'm willing to do it. Before the turbines had approached us we had our farm on the market but luckily no one bought it so we were able to be approached and now we are willing to fight until we get turbines.

My brother works at the quarry 5 minutes around the corner and enjoys getting up at 7.20am to get to work by 7.30am. I enjoyed coming home from school each day and going around the sheep during lambing time, going for a horse ride or even just going for a drive around on the motorbikes. Growing up on the farm I wish to have my children on this farm also to give them the experiences I had, although it would be a great deal easier if we had turbines to help ease our debts. I am willing to attend 9yrs study to become a radiologist to keep the farm because I have realised that if we can't keep it we will NEVER get it back. I only hope that my parents will be able to help me through my university studies.

Many farmers around the area are being made to sell their farms due to debts. One of our family friends had to sell their farm a few years back and now their son is wishing to go into farming but he doesn't have a farm to farm because his parents were unable to keep

their farm. If they had turbines they would have had an extra income and maybe they would have had a better chance of survival.

I hope that the proposed wind farms are approved in our area because it will allow many families to keep their farms, raise another generation, enjoy their lifestyles and have a set income from their farm. It would be nice to hear my father not talk about his debts that his in, it would mentally make him a lot happier having a constant income off the farm. It's always been a dream of my brother and I to keep the farm in the family and have a good second job to make the farm the best we possibly can and give our parents some things that they haven't had since they became farmers. Please maybe you can help this dream come true.

Thank You,  
Yours Sincerely,

Aleesa Stafford  
9/02/2011