

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee, Senate Inquiry 2011

by

Charlie Arnott, Angelica Arnott, Lilla Arnott, and Persia and Venus Notarberadino

I wish to make the following submission in opposition to the inappropriate building of industrial wind turbine power stations in rural areas.

Our family has lived on our property Hanaminno at Boorowa for over 40 years. We live here for the beautiful landscape that surrounds our home, the sound of nature that is our ever constant companion, and the healthy and safe sanctuary which we have created within the boundary of our property.

However, recently, 3 industrial wind turbine power stations are proposed to be built in the Boorowa area, all of which have been lodged with NSW Dept. Of Planning under the 3A planning process, the closest project being the Rugby Wind Farm. This project proposes to locate 12 turbines within 1.3-2.5 kms from our family home. These 12 are one cluster of the 90 turbine project.

The developer of the Rugby Wind Farm Windlab/Suzlon have failed completely to adequately engage surrounding landholders, with many residents completely unaware until recent weeks that turbines may be built adjacent to their homes. General community consultation by the developers has been close to nonexistent, and people are angry and frustrated with the lack of information about the projects in the district.

My family calls for an immediate moratorium on all present and future industrial wind turbine power station applications, until a thorough investigation has been carried out into the health impacts of wind turbines on humans. This investigation must also include the study of the impact of wind turbines on surrounding land values, bushfire risk of turbines (both of turbines starting fires and the restricted control of bushfires near turbines), and the reduction of normal aerial agricultural activities (spraying and fertilizing). Too much evidence exists that cannot be ignored which suggests that there are very real negative impacts to people and communities of wind turbines in rural areas.

We have grave concerns that, due to the proposed proximity of the wind turbines, our health, safety, livelihood, security and well being will be compromised. The choice we made to live and work in a peaceful rural environment will be destroyed.

We are just as concerned for the people of Boorowa and district, with the signs of division already evident in the community. I fear that industrial wind turbine power stations located in the Boorowa district will do the same as they have done in many other rural communities and destroy the future of Boorowa as a peaceful, growing and healthy community.

We thank the Committee for taking the time to consider our submission, and we reserve the right to provide additional information in this matter.

Charlie Arnott, Angelica Arnott, Lilla Arnott, and Persia and Venus Notarberadino.