

## **Collector Statistics (based on 2011 ABS Census)**

Collector is a town in the Southern Tablelands, New South Wales. It is 54 km from Canberra and 201 km from Sydney. Collector is in the State electorate of Goulburn and the Federal electorate of Hume.

The population of Collector and district is 403, comprised of 52.1% females and 47.9% males. The population of the town of Collector is 231, comprising 144 adults and 87 children. The median/average age of the Collector population is 38 years of age, 1 year above the Australian average.

89.1% of people living in Collector were born in Australia. The religious make up is 31.4% Catholic, 28% Anglican, 19.6% No Religion, 3.7% Uniting Church, 3% Christian, nfd. 61.8% of Collector people over 18 are married, 25.8% have never married and 6.4% are divorced and 1.9% are separated. There are 13 widowed people living in Collector.

72.4% of the people living in Collector are employed full time, with some 81% working in Canberra, 18% are working on a part time basis. Collector has an unemployment rate of 2.1%. The main occupations of people from Collector are Managers 27.2%, Professionals 17.4%, Technicians and Trades Workers 14.9%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 12.8%, Community and Personal Service Workers 11.1%, Labourers 4.3%, Sales Workers 3.8%, Machinery Operators And Drivers 3.8%.

The median individual income is \$885.00 per week and the median household income is \$1573.00 per week. 25.8% of homes are fully owned, and 55.6% are in the process of being purchased by home loan mortgage. 18.5% of homes are rented. The median rent in Collector is \$320 per week and the median mortgage repayment is \$2431 per month.



Frank Ross  
22 Church Street  
COLLECTOR NSW 2581

Ms Deborah Cameron  
Chair  
Collector Windfarm Forum

**Resignation from the Ratch Australia Collector Windfarm Community Forum**

Dear Ms Cameron,

I hereby resign from the Forum. Thank you for the opportunity to participate over the past two years.

I believe in climate change and renewable energy and had hoped that Ratch Australia would effectively engage with the Collector community. Unfortunately, much of Ratch's engagement has been characterised by false and misleading information: people have been reported to be at meetings when they have not been there; to have supported positions and roles which they have not agreed to; and points of disagreement or where tangible commitment has been required have been either ignored or evaded by clever words. It has become apparent that looking good for Government stakeholders is clearly a higher priority for Ratch than honest communication with the Collector community.

The recent Collector community petition where over 80% of the townspeople call for the ACT Government to reject Ratch's wind auction tender, confirms its failures in this area. Two years of clever, empty promises and meetings is enough: there are better things to do! People here want more than public relations spin in return for destroying our visual amenity, real estate values and community harmony.

Yours sincerely

Frank Ross  
6 August 2014



# Friends of Collector News

September 2014

## 90% of Collector Says No to Ratch

In early July, the Friends of Collector organised a petition to the ACT Assembly calling on it to not accept a tender from Ratch as part of its current wind energy Auction. This was in response to the ACT Government Wind Auction Secretariat advising us the closing date of the Auction was 10 July. Since we knew Ratch was putting in a tender, the petition was urgently sent around town.

85 persons from Collector township signed the petition. This represents over 90% of the adult population of Collector. The main ones that did not sign were relatives of turbine hosts and people new to the town. Collector people have clearly seen enough of Ratch's public relations newsletters, bogus consultation and that we are wearing the costs while others benefit.

17 other persons adjacent to the town also signed the petition when visiting the pub and friends. However, no doorknocking beyond town was attempted since it was lambing time for farmers and most other persons are commuters to Canberra or Goulburn and ascertaining when they may be home and organising visits was too time consuming.

This petition confirms the independent Stolz survey of 2013 which found that over 80% of residents opposed the Ratch windfarm. Is it any wonder Ratch refuses to survey Collector people and relies on public relations trickery? A big thank you to all our wise Collector signees!

### Tuesday 16 Sept Presentation of Petition to ACT Assembly + Media

The Collector petition along with another from Tarago residents against the proposed Jupiter Wind Farm will be presented to the Assembly by the ACT Liberal Shadow Minister Nicole Lawder. Our Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor will be there explaining why the ACT Government should not allow windfarm companies like Ratch to destroy our communities.

We will begin with a media presentation at 9.15 am. If you can make it, join us and stand up for your quality of life at Collector. For car pooling etc, please call Vel on 0434 532 716 or Richard on 0404 077 951.

### Possible High Court Challenge to ACT Government Wind Auction

Friends of Collector has received advice from Professor George Williams, the senior constitutional professor at University of New South Wales, that it may be possible to challenge the ACT Wind Auction in the High Court under Section 109 of the Constitution. This Section spells out that, where there are inconsistencies between Commonwealth and State/Territory laws, Commonwealth law prevails. Since the ACT RET legislation is inconsistent on a number of points with the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Act, and the Commonwealth Government has won many cases under Section 109 (including against the ACT Gay Marriage laws last year), we have prospects!

We have passed this advice on to friends inside and outside Government with a view to developing our case. We expect further news on this within the next few weeks.

### Commonwealth Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review Recommendations

Many of you will be aware that the RET is what gives windfarms the subsidy – through passing on costs to electricity consumers - to make them economically viable. Two weeks ago the Commonwealth Government's RET Review recommendations were released. In summary it recommends two options to the Government:

1. Scrap the RET for new entrants; or
2. Significantly scale back the current RET for new entrants.

(PTO)

The first option will definitely kill Ratch's proposed Collector windfarm and most others in the region. If the second one gets up, depending on the wording it may allow the Collector windfarm - and possibly others - to go ahead. Wind farm lobbyists are trying hard to get the Government to back off from these options.

If you want to save Collector and other communities affected like us, email the Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt at [greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au)

### **Collector Windfarm Forum: local member's Newsletter**

This newsletter came out this week "*to explain the roles and functions of the Forum*" to the Collector community. The Forum has been going for some two years. You may be forgiven for asking what took them so long?

The answer is that the Forum has been run by Ratch as a closed talk shop, while they pretend to Government stakeholders they are consulting with the Collector community. The members now realise they are being used and are trying to open things up. To protect themselves they also describe Ratch's failures in the "*What has frustrated us*" section: despite many written and verbal approaches from local Members, Ratch has not engaged or negotiated with them over matters such as the Community Enhancement Fund; and Ratch's last newsletter was not "*a true representation of the outcomes of a recent workshop...*". This is a very polite version of only a couple of their issues with Ratch.

The newsletter unintentionally misleads when it says the decision on whether the Collector windfarm proceeds lies largely with the proponent. Ratch's Forum representative Anthony Yeates has consistently said it depends on them getting subsidy \$ through the RET via the ACT or Commonwealth Governments (check with him on [02 8913 9407](tel:0289139407)). They have been trying for 9 months to get a RET subsidy: time is running out and they are desperate.

**Evidence of Collector Real Estate Values being hit by Ratch's proposed Windfarm**  
Allhomes.com.au shows that since the NSW Government approved the Collector windfarm in December 2013 the median prices of properties in Collector have fallen from \$393,000 to \$324,000 in 2014. Very few properties have sold this year: this includes All Hand Made Gallery which was passed in when auctioned at the start of this year; and the Bushranger Hotel which has been for sale for the past two years and is now going to auction in October (along with a number of other nearby properties).

While median prices can vary in small markets such as Collector, in similar places like Sutton and Gundaroo the prices are going in the opposite direction and there is much more turnover. Real estate agents and people who want to sell will privately tell you the Collector market is dead and the windfarm is an issue. You be the judge!

The impact on real estate value issue will become clearer in the next two years if the windfarm goes ahead. But why wait when it is much better to stop them now by supporting the abolition of the RET and opposing Ratch as a suitable candidate in the ACT Government wind auction?

### **What you can do:**

- Come along to our Petition presentation and demonstration at the ACT Assembly on 16 September, 9.15am;
- Email the Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt at [greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au) to say you support the RET Review recommendation to abolish the RET subsidy to windfarms;
- Call or email our local Federal Member, Angus Taylor (ph 4822 2277 or email him at [angus.taylor@aph.gov.au](mailto:angus.taylor@aph.gov.au)) in support of his campaign against Ratch and other wind farms;
- Write to or email the ACT Minister for the Environment, Simon Corbell (GPO BOX 1020, CANBERRA 2601 or [corbell@act.gov.au](mailto:corbell@act.gov.au)), and tell him to not support Ratch for supply of energy to the ACT;
- Write to the media and/or call radio talkback shows etc about your concerns; and
- Keep in touch with [lindap899@gmail.com](mailto:lindap899@gmail.com)





## Simon Corbell MLA

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINISTER FOR CAPITAL METRO

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MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Dear Mr Ross and Ms Ryan

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2015 about the success of the ACT Wind Auction. Your congratulations and kind words are greatly appreciated.

As mentioned in previous correspondence, throughout the Wind Auction it was always the ACT Government's preference to support wind developments that had a high level of local support. Therefore a key component of the Wind Auction evaluation criteria was community engagement. Twenty per cent of the Auction's assessment score was dedicated to how well a wind farm developer had engaged with the people that live nearby.

I agree that the successful 19.4 megawatt Coonooer Bridge wind farm has an innovative model of community engagement focused on community co-ownership. The ACT Government is pleased to be supporting this wind farm, particularly since it is being developed by Canberra based company, Windlab. Windlab plans to establish its global operations centre in the ACT, will be employing three additional Canberra based staff to manage the Coonooer Bridge wind farm, and will establish a new Australian National University course in wind development as a result of its submitting a successful Wind Auction proposal.

The wind industry has a strong future in the Australian Capital Region. As it grows, I look forward to local Canberra businesses playing a leading role in a range of strategic and operational areas, including demonstrating how best practice in community engagement can deliver benefits to communities as well as to wind developers.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA  
Minister for the Environment

17.3.15

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# COLLECTOR IN PERIL

## Flames Threaten Township

### TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION CEASES AT 2.15 P.M.

## GALLANT FIGHT BY VOLUNTEERS

BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

At the time we went to press the historic township was in danger of being swept by flame from a terrible fire which, fanned by the boisterous gale-like wind, is racing along on a wide front.

At 2.15 the postmistress at the post office was compelled to leave the office owing to the impossible conditions caused by the heat, smoke and the nearness of the flames. She was able to return half an hour later, but conditions were still threatening.

At midday the flames were within a few hundred yards of parts of the town, and it seemed that they must eventually defeat the efforts being made to stay them. Collector's peril was increasing with every minute of the fight, and it seemed that the only possibility of saving the town lay in a change or drop of the wind.

As stated above, the post office was left and the mails were given to the Goulburn Evening Penny Post representative to take custody of for Breadalbane. It is possible that otherwise they would have been lost. The wind is blowing with terrific force, and it seems that the men are fighting a hopeless fight.

The fire broke out yesterday shortly after lunch on Woodpark, a property leased by the estate of the late A. B. Chisholm. It got out of control speedily and spread to Lerida, a property also leased by the Chisholm estate, where it did an enormous amount of damage, destroying grazing land and between 2000 and 4000 sheep.

Telephone lines on the property were burned down and it is impossible to obtain reliable information, but a fair estimate would seem to be that at least 2000 sheep have been burned.

From there the fire extended to Granger's property on "Oakdale." In response to S.O.S. calls, a big contingent of men arrived from Goulburn, Gunning, Breadalbane, Yass, Queanbeyan, Spring Valley, Currawang, Sutton, Gundaroo, and Gurrundah.

The men fought the flames all the afternoon and night until three o'clock this morning. The fire spread through the heavily timbered country and across grazing land with amazing rapidity.

At Lerida there were fears for the safety of employees and their families and the women-folk were

the safety of employees and their families and the women-folk were removed to Lerida homestead.

So dense were the clouds of smoke through which the cars bearing women taking provisions to the fighters, that the women had to tie wet handkerchiefs over their faces and eventually were compelled to allow the car drivers to finish the journey alone.

The fire was got under control but strong wind sprang up at eight o'clock and further fires broke out on Lloyd's Creek and on Mr. Walter Sheridan's "Cherry-Lea."

Fire fighters were rushed to these properties but had a very difficult time in checking the advance of the flames. They had no alternative but to wait until the fire reached the flat country and endeavour to overcome

to wait until the fire reached the flat country and endeavour to overtake it there.

#### ON THE ALERT

During this morning men were kept in the township in the event of the fire reaching Collector but it got such a hold on Granger's property that the men were hurried over there.

Heavy clouds of smoke are hanging in a bluish black pall over the town and there are great fears for the safety of Collector unless the wind drops.

#### COLLECTOR. Later.

At mid-day flames could be seen racing down the hillside on the range on the Gunning side of Collector and the fire was within a mile of the town.

As soon as the flames are seemingly held in check in one place, they will break out in another.

This morning, the fire was located in the valley formed between the Great Dividing Range and Collector, where it led out on to the flat country with amazing speed.

The homes of Mr. Jack Sheridan, Mr. Walter Sheridan, Mr. Vern Granger and Mr. James Granger, appear to be doomed.

At Mr. Jack Sheridan's property the hay stacks and shed caught fire and were destroyed within a few minutes.

The volunteers made a great save in regard to the house.

The fire found a temporary check when it reached the Collector Creek, but it was able to jump across the river and is now burning close to the main road which runs through the township.

## COLLECTOR SAFE

### Later News

COLLECTOR, 3.15 p.m.

At 2 p.m. the fire had travelled right through Collector, leaving the country a scene of blackened desolation. Despite the efforts of the fire-fighters the flames jumped the river, swept through Winderradeen Station and are now travelling towards Spring Valley, being driven by a wind of gale-like force. It swept through and around Collector, the houses and shops and other buildings in the main part of the township being saved only owing to the magnificent efforts of the men who fought the flames. For a time it appeared that the Post Office was doomed, out-buildings and sheds being destroyed.

Fortunately, most of the stock from properties in the township had been removed this morning to positions of safety. While the high wind continues anything is likely to happen, but for the present Collector is out of immediate danger.

Thousands and thousands of acres of pastoral land have been laid waste and the countryside presents a tragic appearance.

Dense clouds of smoke are sweeping across the road between Goulburn and Collector, Collector and Gunning, and also on the main highway.

The fire is also moving in the direction of breadalbane.

### FIRES IN VICTORIA

MELBOURNE, Friday.

It is reported that country districts are again being menaced by bushfires, the latest outbreaks being between Yarra Junction and Warburton and the township of Cowelltown and Westburn. Fire-fighters are working strongly, but matters at the latest were extremely threatening. Many houses, together with sawmills, have already been demolished, while several homes were badly burned.

It was in this area in 1926 that Cowelltown and Noojee were wiped out and 32 lives lost.



## COLLECTOR FIRES

### Currawang's Danger

Currawang: The bush fire which swept through the Collector district last Friday, for a time seriously menaced this locality.

It is safe to report that this district was never before threatened with such a disastrous and widespread fire. The light north-west wind throughout the day diverted the fire to the south-west, but late on Friday afternoon, when the wind changed to easterly, a light shower of rain fell, these factors arresting the progress of the fire.

Landowners spent Saturday doing useful and important work on the fire frontage facing Currawang and Spring Valley in extinguishing burning stumps, trees, and logs, by means of axe-work and water from tanks drawn on motor lorries.

Since Saturday evening, the wind has remained easterly, which, together with intermittent misty showers, has kept the position safe so far as this district is concerned.

