

## **A Personal Submission in support of the Jupiter Wind Farm Project to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment**

I am a farmer and permanent resident at Boro NSW. My property will host several wind turbines in the Jupiter Wind Farm Project.

I am the son of a solidier settler who has given his life to this land in support of his family, the local community and the Australian economy. Not only did he stand up for Australia in hardship, he asked for little in return and left an enduring, proud legacy of the land to generations to come. As guardian of this land it is now incumbent on me to find ways to continue to support my family, now and into the future. Farming is not easy. It is a relentless pursuit for little reward. But we do it anyway. Living with an unpredictable climate where rainfall may become more and more uncertain means we need to find ways of continuing to support ourselves without becoming a burden on the Government's meagre resources.

I understand that any new development or change can be an emotive and challenging time for people, and establishing a new and sustainable energy source for Australians is no exception. There are high emotions from those who oppose wind farm developments and similarly, huge consequences for those of us who not only wish to support the development, but who also need to find ways in which to keep the farming industry alive. Australia has always been considered the lucky country and this has been in part due to our economic sustainability driven from the benefits of natural resources such as mining and farming. One only has to travel a short distance to fully appreciate the wealth and beauty of Australia!!

I'm not a hobby farmer with short term interest in the region and I don't live on the land because it's a beautiful place to be, I live here because this is how I make a living and support my family.

I strongly support and am proud of the decisions of the NSW government to lead a significant shift to renewable energy by 2020. Wind farming offers us one of the cleanest, zero emission renewable energy options. It has very little or close to no impact on our environment, apart from the addition of some elegant wind turbines to our land, and in return provides us with up to 1100GWH of electricity – enough to power 150,800 homes in NSW. In addition, CO2 emissions can be reduced by approximately 900,000 tonnes of Green House Gases per annum. With such extraordinary benefits to our energy resource, (without counting the positive economic impact to the local and broader area) it simply seems to make good environmental sense to me.

I appreciate that there is a new generation of families moving to live in this region, we encourage and welcome them and completely understand their love of the land that makes up their vista. It is a view that changes with the season, the hour of the day, the weather, the crops or the livestock that lives on it. It can be dry and parched, it can reflect the most beautiful sunset, or be a lush green vista from a

healthy rainfall. As responsible farmers, we plant trees and corridors of shelter for our native flora and fauna and ensure that the impact of our farming is as small as possible. With this same care and respect for the land we have made decisions about what we believe are the best option for our families, our land and our environment.

I am not an economic or environmental expert; I will leave those assessments and findings to the experts. But it's hard to imagine that something as significant as this project wouldn't have a positive impact on the local community in both employment opportunities and the injection of money, facilities and services.

There is much debate and evidence obtained to support wind farming and to dispel myths about their impact, to quote the Climate Council, there are at least five good reasons why wind turbines are a good thing;

1. Wind turbines don't produce greenhouse gas emission, unlike coal which emits toxic and carcinogenic substances into our atmosphere;
2. The uptake of wind turbines will bring down health costs as cutting out coal and making the switch to renewable will help to bring down the huge cost of the impacts on health from pollutants;
3. Wind turbines are healthy for rural communities too from rural development, to investing in the local economy and employment;
4. Wind farms contribute to the long-term health of the planet by quickly cutting carbon emissions thus stabilising the climate and eventually halting the rising trend of extreme heat; and
5. Most importantly, wind turbines don't damage health "In February 2015, the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council found, after careful consideration and deliberation of the evidence, '...that there is no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans'.

The fact is that replacing fossil fuels with zero-carbon alternatives like solar and wind is not only getting cheaper to do, it is also better for the health of Australians, and will bring down the significant health costs that result from burning fossil fuels.

I'd like to wrap up this personal submission by asking that the debate and decisions made on the Jupiter Wind Farm proposal be fair, balanced and based on fact. I understand this can be an emotive topic, but for this country to continue to be a healthy and prosperous place to live, I ask that you carefully consider the merits of wind farming, assess the considerable benefits for this community and help me, and others like me, to continue to contribute to the economy of this great country.

I enthusiastically support renewable energy and the efficient and sustainable use of agricultural land.