



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

NSW Department of Planning and Environment

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/?action=view_job&job_id=6695

14 November 2016

RE: Crookwell 3 Wind

Dear sir/Madam,

We write to express strong support for the above proposal. We are a local conservation group established in 1966. We have a close association with the Field of Mars Reserve, East Ryde, a 50 hectare natural bushland remnant. Urban bushland, and the native fauna for which it provides habitat, are under significant threat from a rapidly changing climate. Reducing carbon emissions provides the most effective mechanism to minimise the impacts of climate change for future generations and the protection of our natural ecosystems on which we all depend.

We feel strongly that renewable energy projects such as the Crookwell Wind Farm are essential if carbon emissions are to be reduced.

This is a clean energy project. There can be no reasonable comparison with the relatively benign impact of a wind farm comparable to the visual scars of thirsty open cut coal mining and its absolute incompatibility with other agricultural activities and its complete destruction of native vegetation and soils.

This project has additional benefits for local farmers and their families:

- There will be opportunities for employment during the construction phase and some ongoing employment opportunities;
- Grazing activity can co-exist with the small footprint of wind turbines and during the construction period, grazing activity will be only minimally disturbed;
- A regular income stream will be provided post construction which will assist farmers during drought and in coping with market price fluctuations for their produce;
- Water required for agricultural activity will not be reduced by wind farming;
- Electrical cables for the wind farms will be undergrounded and access roads still available for farmers;

Local farmers need to be applauded for taking this initiative to establish wind turbines on their properties. The benefits of renewable energy are far reaching. The immediate benefits to local farmers complement the wider need for us to reduce carbon pollution of our atmosphere and increase the amount of energy provided from renewable sources.

Yours sincerely
Cathy Merchant,
Committee Member