

In my view, the State of NSW must pursue viable options for generation of renewable energy as a matter of urgency to reduce greenhouse emissions and transition to clean and ultimately cheaper energy sources. Crookwell 2 Wind Farm - MOD 2 and Crookwell 3 Wind Farm are projects that offer such an opportunity now.

I strongly support these projects as they score highly in what I believe are three key areas.

1. Contribution and relevance to the strategic transition to clean energy

- Wind farms are a mature renewable energy technology undergoing rapid advancement and are therefore a key contributor to realising the State's clean energy goals.
- The Crookwell region has been identified as a prime candidate for wind energy. It already has successful wind farms in place that have proved the concept and approach, provided experiences and lessons learned for best practice.
- The Crookwell Wind Farm has been awarded a contract to supply renewable energy to the ACT Government's Renewable Energy Target.

2. Contribution and benefit at the community level, especially locally

- With its record to date, the Crookwell region can now claim wind generated energy as one of its primary products and build on that reputation and prosperity.
- As the wind industry's relationship with the Crookwell community has developed, there is a clearer understanding of how the benefits should flow to the community leading to increased payments to local farmers to the tune of about \$600,000 every year for the next 25 years, as well as \$140,000 annually to the Shire's Community Enhancement Fund.
- Construction will require creation of 120 jobs in the region with 20 ongoing full time roles in a leading edge technology.
- Post-construction restoration of infrastructure such as roads is likely to leave that infrastructure in a better state.

3. Technological suitability

- The construction of the wind farm and associated infrastructure will have relatively little impact on continued grazing activities
- Wind farms are relatively easy to reconfigure to suit the context, for example consideration of environmental impacts has led to a reduction to a more suitable number of turbines.
- The wind farm footprint is a fraction of that required by an equivalent solar farm.
- Demands on local water supplies are much lower than fossil fuel based energy generation.
- The projects in question will be utilising the most up-to-date turbine technology available.