

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Wind Drops out of Molonglo Wind Farm's Sails**

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The lack of windy days this Autumn has left residents in the Carwoola and Burra areas wondering about the viability of the 60 turbine wind farm proposed for the nearby Molonglo Ridge.

President of the Molonglo Landscape Guardians, Margaret Ritchie, says "Wind data from Canberra Airport shows that from the beginning of March 2005 until June, the average wind speed has been only 3.1 metres per second."

Information on the developer's website says "As a rough guide, an average wind speed of above 7.0 m/s usually indicates a potentially good wind farm site, a speed of 4.2 m/s would not".

Ms Ritchie said the absence of wind is also occurring in the Molonglo Ridge area, and is fairly typical of Autumn and Winter weather in the region. "The wind-data from the Bureau of Meteorology website simply confirms what residents already knew, that the Molonglo Ridge is the wrong place for a wind-farm".

Bruce Cotton, who lives closest to the proposed wind farm said "The whole project not only goes against the wishes of our community and our elected representatives but, because of the lack of wind, it could not even deliver the environmental benefits claimed by the developer. If I was looking to invest money in the wind-industry I'd look for a more reliable wind-resource as well as a site that doesn't badly affect so many people."

Evidence of a poor wind resource is the latest in a string of setbacks for the controversial wind farm proposal which has attracted strong opposition from residents, as well as Queanbeyan and Palerang Councils and State and Federal MPs. Palerang Council recently refused permission for the developers to erect two additional wind-monitoring towers on the site because they did not meet local planning guidelines.

Contact: Margaret Ritchie  
Phone 6238 2000  
e-mail [maggielyn@ceinternet.com.au](mailto:maggielyn@ceinternet.com.au)