



MEDIA RELEASE – James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – Wednesday 27th March 2013

WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS ROADS ISSUE MORE IMMEDIATE THAN RET

I refer to a number of articles of today's date appearing in *The Goulburn Post* in regard to the development of the Gullen Range wind farm.

These articles highlight in particular one of the most significant problems associated with wind turbine farm developments – damage to local roads and the safety of residents using those local roads.

As I have pointed out previously, there are many 'on the ground' aspects of turbine development which are already evident - such as the legal rights of land owners hosting turbine developments, compensation for them and their neighbours, demands on local infrastructure such as roads and water, impacts on the local community, potential health impacts and environmental issues.

The Liberal Candidate for Hume likes to focus on the need to change the Renewable Energy Target (RET) policy of his party in order to slow wind turbine farm development. I question whether he will succeed in his objective given statements from members of his party supporting the RET.

More importantly, the real front line issue for the people of Hume right now is not the RET, but the failure of the Liberal Candidate's state colleagues to address the many planning failures in regard to wind turbine farm development.

In the articles appearing in the *Goulburn Post* today reference is made to the failure of the NSW Department of Planning to ensure that the wind farm developer must first make adequate provision for upgrading roads to take the additional loads required and then must provide for the ongoing development and maintenance of the roads being used to access the wind turbine farm.

Local councils can do very little to influence what a wind turbine farm developer may or may not do in regard to use of a public road.

What is the Liberal Party doing to address these planning failures? Is the Liberal Candidate prepared to take his state colleagues to task on this issue or does he prefer to talk about the RET rather than about roads?

For further information, please contact : James Harker-Mortlock - Independent Candidate for Hume

Mobile : 04 111 82649 Email : james@puttinghumefirst.com Website : <http://www.puttinghumefirst.com>