




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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ADJOURNMENT

Southern Downs Electorate, Wind Farms

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.21 pm): I would like to advise the House of some concerns in my electorate of Southern Downs about wind turbines and wind farms. I have attended a meeting at Allora and one more recently at Greymare, where individual landholders have been advised by their neighbours that potential proponents of wind farm projects have been going around touting money to have wind turbines installed on their properties. Anybody who knows these communities will know that they are comprised to a large extent of relatively small blocks—less than a thousand acres and in many cases less than 500 acres or even smaller. In such areas, if a wind farm were to go in, the great majority would suffer the loss of amenity, the loss of views, the disadvantages associated with property value decline and, during construction, biosecurity threats, dust, noise and so forth.

Mr Andrew: It's shocking—terrible.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Mirani. Yes, it is terrible. These things may have their place, but in my electorate of Southern Downs I cannot see too many places left that do not have wind turbines now that should have them in the future. One of the difficulties is that communities find out through the grapevine, through the bush telegraph, that people are touting these wind turbines. They do not find out from the government. The renewable energy zones, which are coming in, effectively take away from communities and from local government the opportunity to object and participate in decisions in the way you would if, for instance, people were putting a feedlot or a dam on their property or some sort of farming structure.

Much of my electorate of Southern Downs is an inappropriate place to build wind turbines. I have listened to the communities at Allora and Greymare. I understand that there are always two sides to the story. There are those who would stand to benefit from having these pieces of infrastructure in their communities. The general thing is that community discord is fostered by the way in which these things are happening. Good people should be able to live without these wind turbines around their places. Move them way out west. Stick them on one landholder's land so no-one else can see them and then that landholder gets the advantages and disadvantages equally.

I know that I am speaking for the majority of the people in my electorate of Southern Downs. I ask that the state government reconsider the renewable energy zones and include communities and local government more closely in consultation about these things.