

I am pleased to submit my observations and opinion to the senate inquiry on Wind Farms headed by Senator Fielding, for consideration.

I live in Ararat Victoria. Ararat municipality includes the area called Challicum hills east of the main township where a windfarm has operated for some years. Points I would like to make in favour of windfarms are:

- People in Ararat like their wind farms. If you conducted a voxpop in the main street, Barkly Street, you would find there are no particular concerns.
- Most of us actually LIKE the graceful stance of these quiet movers that can be seen from most points in our town.
- I've stood under one and was surprised with the LACK of noise some people claim.
- They provide CLEAN POWER to our electricity grid
- They provide INCOME to farmers, a real bonus in the last few drought years
- They provide employment to other professionals who live and add to the steady economy of Ararat
- They provide a tourist point of interest
- After more than one well attended, balanced community consultation forums not hijacked by oppositionists, I understand there were few objections to the new proposal.
- I also understand studies conducted in Europe into claims of loss of well being when living near wind farms could not be substantiated.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this inquiry.

Margaret Burbidge

