

Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir/ Madam,

### **A Response to the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**

Please accept my submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

Surely the last 2 years with global and local floods, and droughts we would be seriously considering the impact of rural wind farms as opposed to coal energy production.

With what we know about climate change and the need to greatly reduce our greenhouse emissions this decade, it is clear to me that we will need to move away from our current reliance on coal and other fossil fuels to meet our energy needs as soon as is humanly possible.

The good news is that we already have the technology to do this. The facilitation of a massive roll-out of renewable energy across Australia will be essential if we are to have a hope of reducing our emissions sufficiently to have a chance of avoiding dangerous climate change.

Just briefly, I have outlined some of the evidence and states around wind farms.

**Renewables (and wind in particular) are an essential part of our response to climate change, and the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would make the development of this industry more difficult or onerous**

- **Current research and scientific investigations have found that there are no adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms.**
- **Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds**
- **Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms reduce property values. In fact, I think that seeing them on property's shows that the Australians care about their environment and the people living on our continent as well as the world! We are doing our small bit and the residents of Australia will therefore be inspired to reduce their impact because at the moment they think "why should I" because the governments impact with coal energy is thousands of times worse than my impact.**
- **The employment benefits are substantial and widely spread across regions, and provide considerable opportunities for individuals and communities where they are located, including the land owners who host turbines**
- **Wind farms are widely supported in the community**

Kind Regards

Kelly Mapleston