

Dear Senator

I am writing to offer my support for rural wind farms – particularly those following the community ownership model employed by the Hepburn Wind Farm in Daylesford, Victoria.

The land owner of this development volunteered his property for use as a wind farm and he will benefit from a new source of income, without any measurable impact on farming operations. Hepburn Shire received 343 letters in relation to the Hepburn Wind Project, with 95% in support. Recent NSW polling shows more than 85% support wind power.

With more than 100,000 turbines installed globally, wind farms are not new. The vocal minority views are consistent with the implementation of any unfamiliar technology. Community wind farms are common in Europe — Denmark has more than 2,100. These projects empower local communities to constructively engage in the transition to a future without pollution.

Australian states already have a well developed wind farm planning controls which are among the most onerous in the world. Any changes to these controls should be equitably and consistently applied across other industries and be informed by science.

I ask that the Senate Committee not propose provisions that would unnecessarily make the development of the Australia wind industry more difficult or onerous.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Meers