

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please accept the following as my submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural 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
- 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

Yours sincerely,

*Michael Nugent*

*"If there's no action before 2012, that's too late. What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment." Rajendra Pachauri, scientist and economist, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize*

*"What if the mainstream science is right? What if the science supported by the overwhelming majority of scientists who are qualified in the various disciplines related to climate, is broadly right? What if all of the Academies of Science in all of the countries of scientific achievement, are not deluded...? If they are broadly right, we would probably see a threat to our prosperity rather larger than any of the issues that do the rounds of public discourse on long-run economic development. The threats would manifest themselves in large problems in a few decades, and as the dominant problem well before the end of this century. The challenges beyond this century are difficult to reconcile with continuity in modern human civilisation." Ross Garnaut*