



CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

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Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF RURAL WIND FARMS

I write as Mayor of Circular Head Council, a municipality which contains the Bluff Point and Studland Bay Wind farms that were developed in the 2000 – 2005 period.

At the time of the original proposal, there was considerable concern in the community in terms of the unknown aspects of wind farms, in particular:

- noise from the turbines whilst in operation;
- the effect on threatened species known to habituate the surrounding areas;
- adverse health effects to people residing in close proximity to the wind farms;
- Aesthetic and financial detrimental effects on nearby properties, including property values.

As part of the conditions of approval, regular required monitoring was required to occur on known environmental issues including threatened species, which has continued to provide updates on statistics and information since completion of the construction period.

Whilst there has been a small impact on species at the wind farm (ie. Birdstrikes), this was inevitably expected in such a development of this kind. Interestingly, no similar monitoring is conducted for significant industries constructed in the 1950-1970 year range.

Despite the initial concerns and angst, we are now some ten years on from the initial commencement of the project, and the wind farm is now accepted as part of the landscape, and indeed has become a prominent tourism attraction to the area, which in turn has increased tourism numbers to this municipality.

I believe it has been a positive economic outcome for the community, and the environmental outcomes I don't believe outweigh that economic benefit.

Yours faithfully

Daryl Quilliam
MAYOR