

Submission to the Victorian Senate Committee on the Social and Economic Impacts of Rural Wind Farms.

The need for alternative sources of non polluting and renewable energy is critical and the development of rural wind farms is one important avenue of addressing this need.

We emigrated from New Zealand to Victoria 14 years ago. Our home town before this was Palmerston North which has a backdrop of a large wind farm installation. This has made a significant contribution to electricity production, has provided a tourist attraction and has not impacted adversely on the health or wellbeing of the community.

In a recent fact finding vacation to Europe we were most impressed by the large numbers of huge windmills in the European countryside. Our reading of the evidence indicates that these are greatly contributing to the economy of these countries and that there is no scientific evidence that there are any adverse health outcomes for those who live in close proximity.

One alternative to such developments as wind farms in locations where there is clear evidence of adequate airflow is more of what we already have too much. That is; polluting coal fired power stations. The organisation to which one of us belongs, Doctors for the Environment Australia, has amassed a body of scientific evidence about the adverse health outcomes from burning coal. The Senate Committee must take this into account when making its findings. We cannot just rule out one new renewable and safe source of power on inadequate grounds without taking into account the deleterious effects on community health and welfare of the source on which we presently depend so much.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on such an important issue.

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