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RE: The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

I wish to write in favour of rural wind farms on the basis of their economic, aesthetic and environmental qualities. I encourage the Senate to develop legislation encouraging of further wind farms.

It makes economic sense for our rural communities to use the natural sources of energy around them, particularly wind power. The Australian newspaper on the fifth of February 2011 reported that NSW is facing 11 per cent increases in energy bills for customers of EnergyAustralia. These increases seem set only to continue if communities such as mine and other rural communities remain reliant on carbon-heavy, centralised power supplies. The cost and energy-losses in transmission from distant coal powered generators do not make sense compared with the benefits of local, decentralised power supplies based on a mix of renewable resources.

Further, creating a legislative environment encouraging of wind farms and decentralised renewable energy generators will allow small to medium sized enterprises a market opportunity to meet Australia's energy needs through local, community owned investment.

In regards to aesthetic qualities, my peers and I find that wind farms far surpass other forms of electricity generation (such as coal-fired power plants). These white kinetic sculptures contribute to the visual landscape and send a strong positive message to our community and children about keeping Australia's power supply clean, efficient, and independent.

Finally, with their small footprint, carbon-neutral manufacture and quick installation/deinstallation times wind farms are superior to other forms of energy generation for their minimal environmental impact.

All Australian communities, particularly our rural communities, deserve the opportunity to host decentralised, economically supportive and low environmental impact wind farms.