

SUBMISSION SENATE ENQUIRY: THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

I graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara 33 years ago with a degree in Environmental Studies. Yes, that is a long time ago. But even then, in the seventies, the warning bells were beginning to ring on what we now call Climate Change. Yet, here we are in 2011 still arguing between ourselves whether or not Climate Change is a fact or an invention. Regardless of the outcome of this discussion, we all agree that our current system of coal burning electrical generation is antiquated and extremely dirty with the releasing of millions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. So now we are seriously looking into Renewable Energy electrical generation as a means of offsetting this greenhouse pollution.

Wind Power is a part of this renewable package. It alone will not replace coal burning but will definitely play a big part of the solution. The big picture and the future have to be given priority over the minor squabbling of the present. For every megawatt of electricity generated from Wind Power which is put in to the Grid, this means one less coal derived dirty megabyte. This does and will make a difference. The Codrington Wind Farm in SW Victoria was commissioned over 9 years ago. It is a relatively small Wind Farm of fourteen 1.3mw turbines. Approximately 540,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions have been avoided (offset) so far just from this Wind Farm. That is the equivalent of permanently removing 15,000 cars (and their emissions) from the roads. These 14 Wind Turbines produce enough power for 10,000 homes per year. My relatives live within one kilometre from the Turbines and have had absolutely no ill effects with their health. The "noise" or, better yet put, lack of noise is not an issue. The big double trucks on the Hiway, the trains and airplanes put out much more noise than a Wind Farm. Yet the governments continue to allow housing within close proximity to major roads, train tracks and airports.

Where has our common sense gone?

Our elected representatives need to represent the majority. This is a democracy. Independent polls have shown an 85% approval rate with Wind Farms. Cashed up lobbyists and small interest groups do not make up the majority.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tim Brady