

To: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Confidential

Dear Senators.

I would like the opportunity to appear before your committee re Windfarms as I have been concerned about this issue for several years and prepared a submission (attached) about them and believe the community consultations have overwhelmingly ignored the local communities in Victoria. Even the greens do not support Windfarms along the coast or where communities do not want them.

Whilst I believe we need to reduce greenhouse gases and care for the environment (I have been labeled a greenie for the past 30 years!), I don't believe that the windfarms are the best solution to achieve these goals. Large windfarms are largely ineffective as a means of reducing carbon emissions, the exception being where the backup is diesel powered generators which can be started the moment the wind stops or becomes too strong. Where wind energy is used in conjunction with coal fired generators there are minimal green house gas savings. Electrical energy cannot be stored in the grid and so wind generators cannot provide base load power. However a small generator on each farm would produce a more consistent effect overall and would not affect visual amenity or health problems. Neighbours would not be so adversely affected or upset

The process of deciding where turbines are placed is unsatisfactory and has been poorly handled, with the most affected people being somewhat ignored. Communities are have been shattered by the unfair process in Victoria with often long term friends and neighbours ceasing to speak with each other. Many people have chosen their favourite place in the world to build their home and farm/lifestyle, others have lived in locations for all their lives and the monstrous wind turbine farms can shatter the landscape they so love and render the dwellings within a kilometer unlivable.

The panel hearings in Victoria were not consultative – the tribunals were given strict guidelines which did not allow community opinion to influence the recommendation of the panel. In one panel there were 1500 objections and almost every member of the surrounding community objected as per the notorious “red dot map” in the case of the ‘Bald Hills’ project. In addition the effect on the local wildlife was not properly studied (please refer to my submission to the Tribunal)

Yours sincerely
Trish Jelbart