

We wish to make the following submission to the Senate Committee tasked with examining and reporting on the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms, and in particular:

- (a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;
- (b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes;
- (c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income;
- (d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms; and
- (e) Any other relevant matters.

We believe that issues (a) to (d) have been adequately examined over time at local, state, federal levels and by other nations. Current planning and building standards are considered appropriate although minor changes at the margins might be needed to satisfy disaffected parties. However nothing should be done to harm the wind industry just to satisfy the disaffected and the sceptics who fail to see the great need for cleaner energy sources.

We are supporters of alternative cleaner energy sources and wind power as a contributor to cleaner energy. The windy southern parts of the continent have an important part to play in this regard. The particular reference, (e) Any other relevant matter, should be used by the Committee to consider the health, social and economic benefits for all Australians in the context of pollution reduction by clean wind energy replacement of coal fired energy generation.

There is much debate and major division of opinion on the issue of man's contribution to global warming by the production of greenhouse gases. We believe that the science is clear that global warming is the result of man made activities and that the production of electricity in coal fired generators in this country is a major source of green house gases. Alternative electrical generating systems, including wind power, must continue to be built so that production of green house gases by electrical generators can be reduced. The cost to mankind, if significant climate change is the end result of unabated pollution, will far outweigh the economics of one power generation method versus another or the cost of compensating the disaffected.

It is considered that this Senate Committee should use this report to give a much needed impetus to the use of wind power to contribute to the health, social and economic benefit of all Australians by replacing, even if only a small part, the pollution generated by coal fired power stations.

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