

Dear Sir,

In respect of your Senate's call for opinions on the impact of wind power on rural communities, I should like to make the following observations as I live in a rural area in Scotland which is struggling to protect its wild lands and dependent tourist industry from an 'express train' of wind power development. An industry equally important to Australia.

However, despite not being an Australian citizen, as problems and negative effects of wind power impacts are now affecting communities and individuals world wide, I hope you will find these comments of valid interest and concern.

We are all aware that claims made for the power produced by this technology are often wildly exaggerated and time has now provided ample proof of this.

It must ever be thus as weather conditions continue to be a major factor in the production of energy if there is either no wind or too much. Add to

that the serious risk of fire for rural communities - especially in Australia - where again you have had examples of burning debris from nacelle fires being thrown into surrounding brush/heathlands. You are already at

high risk from natural causes being a problem without the input provided by burning turbines. Noise and resulting health problems including infrasound impacts are beginning to be better understood and documented - e.g. research by Dr. Nina Pierpont.

On the financial front, raising energy prices for ordinary citizens through unsustainable subsidies paid to developers is both immoral and unjustifiable. 'Bribes' offered to communities to silence opposition is

sadly rife and is being exposed for the short termism that it actually is.

Farmers in the U.S. have had cause to repent at leisure over agreements entered into with developers which sees them unable to move freely around

their own land and also now suffering the nightmare of being close neighbours to ever larger turbines. The need to provide back-up power stations for periods of non-production add to the financial burden. It must

the politics of the 'mad house' to indulge in such a wasteful way of ensuring continuity of supply.

On the wildlife front, evidence of the scale of avifauna mortality is growing, but is often hampered by the endemic lack of independent monitoring. This is exacerbated by 'nature's sanitation squad' removing carcasses and/or the deliberate hiding of such evidence by the vested interests for whom this is a problem area.

In the UK - ornithologists working for developers, are often required to sign a non-disclosure form of contract or lose the work. This effectively removes the need for results of collisions/mortality evidence to be made

available to the public as it is claimed to form a part of 'business confidentiality rights' or similar. Therefore the true scale of injuries and deaths are hidden. This may or may not apply in Australia, but needs to be addressed if it does.

Please do all you can to protect your country from the catastrophic decision to allow wind power to become a dominant force across the land. An example by which the rest of the world can see that, at last, one country has 'woken up' to the inherent dangers and is prepared to reverse, or reduce the trend to a harmless proportion of the energy picture.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. P.S. Metcalfe and family.