

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of Robertstown and the Brady creek area, adjacent to where the proposed wind farm is to be built , I welcome the enquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

I am in my 60's and bought a country property as an alternative to living in the city for the rest of my life, choosing a quiet country area to see out my twilight years.

As one does as they grow older, I require less sleep than I used to when I was younger, but still require a quality lifestyle to ensure my health keeps at its peak, a distinct impossibility especially if the Wind Turbine Farm goes ahead as planned.

I choose to live where we live because of the peace, quite and magnificent views of the surrounding area and hills where a wind farm is proposed to be erected within 2 kilometres of my home..

A wind farm will not make these beautiful hills nicer to look at, they have achieved this themselves in the years they have been forming in this area and do not need any help from these huge conglomerates that see wind farms as a way for making money by a gullible government who hang on their every word.

There is any amount of research available on the internet of educated people who have been researching Wind Turbines for more months than a lot of senate members have had hot breakfasts.

The information is there, the evidence is there and its time people in power started listening to these people who not just seem to know but Do know what they are talking about as well as people who have been affected by the detrimental effects these Wind Turbines produce.

As with many rural communities, a lot of our community is made up of many extended families where the farm has been handed down from father to son, to grandson and so on.

This is where the problem lies, many families are at breaking point as the younger members of these families are opposed to the building of these turbines, where as the older members of the family sees it as a good way to provide for their impending or ongoing retirement.

I don't think that rural communities have really thought long and hard about the consequences of wind farms in their

communities.

Robertstown consists of a general store, Pub, petrol station/mechanic, post office, Primary school/Kindy, 2 x churches & a community tele-centre.

If the wind farms were to be built in a small community such as ours the effect on the business's here would not be good.

The problem is so many of the older people in the town believe that the benefit of the builders being in the town while the towers are being built will outweigh that.

Great, so the pub will be full every night for 3 weeks, just what the doctor ordered right?

WRONG!!

They have not thought about the aftermath when the contractors are gone, and the towers are up and running.....

- If people leave the town there will not be enough enrolments to keep the school going, therefore they will close the school and jobs will be lost.
- Sporting groups will not have the numbers to continue.
- Small businesses in the area will suffer and will end up closing.
- Government funding for our tele centre will be deemed not viable if they do not have enough community support for it.
- And then there are the many, many people whose health will be affected, whose lives will be ruined either by their health problems being worsened or by financial reasons.
- The families that simply cannot afford to move somewhere else, who cannot stay because of the irritation of the wind farms, who cannot do anything to fight the multinational companies who are backed by politicians such as Rann.
- We may very well end up being one of these families.

The SA government is not the only Govt who would like to have wind power supply a % of their current usage of electricity.

Many overseas Government have put Wind Farms in over the years and are now wishing they hadn't due to the problems

these turbines have caused for people living in close proximity to them.(Wikipedia)

Currently SA has more than half of the wind turbines in Australia.

Producing about 15%. of its electricity from wind power the state of South Australia, a typical 50-megawatt (MW) [wind farm](#) in Australia can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by between 65,000 and 115,000 tonnes a year (Wikipedia)

There are about 50,000 now in use worldwide.

Large operational wind farms in Australia: November 2010 (Wikipedia)

Wind farm	Installed capacity (MW)	Developer	State	Capital
Wind Farm	140		New South Wales	
Hallett Group Australia	298	AGL Energy	South	
Lake Bonney Group Australia	278	Infigen Energy	South	
Portland Group	132		Victoria	
Waubra Wind Farm	192	Acciona Energy & ANZ Infrastructure Services	Victoria	
Woolnorth Wind Farm	140	Roaring 40s & Hydro Tasmania	Tasmania	
Capital Wind Farm	140		New South Wales	
Emu Downs Wind Farm	80	Stanwell Corporation	Western Australia	
Mount Millar Wind Farm	70	Transfield Services	South Australia	
Snowtown Wind Farm	99	TrustPower	South Australia	
Walkaway Wind Farm	90	Alinta	Western Australia	
Waterloo Wind Farm	111	Roaring 40s	South Australia	
Wattle Point Wind Farm	91	AGL Hydro	South Australia	

1 [^](#) Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (2010). [South Australian Supply Demand Outlook](#) p. 35.

2 [^](#) Parliament of Australia (February 19, 2010). [Operating wind farms by Commonwealth Electoral](#)

Division Background note.

3 [^] New, Robert (November 2010). [Electricity generation Major development projects - October 2010](#)

[listing Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics](#), p. 8.

27 [^] Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (2010). [South Australian Supply Demand Outlook](#) p. 35.

28 [^] Parliament of Australia (February 19, 2010). [Operating wind farms by Commonwealth Electoral Division](#) Background note.

29 [^] New, Robert (November 2010). [Electricity generation Major development projects - October 2010](#)

[listing Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics](#), p. 8
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_farm#Australia

Here are just *some* of the consequences and costs per 100,000± industrial wind turbines —

The environmental effects of:

- building hundreds of miles of roads, etc.;
- removing hundreds of thousands of trees, etc.;
- excavating 35 ± million truck loads of earth (plus bedrock dynamiting), etc. (e.g. for tower bases);
- the production & delivery of 160± billion pounds of concrete (e.g. for tower bases);
- the manufacture & delivery of 30± billion pounds of steel (for the towers);
- the refinement & delivery of 200± million gallons of oil (each turbine uses oil);
- the gas used and exhausts emitted for all other transportation;

- having to build hundreds of miles of new transmission lines, (and all of the tree loss),excavation, concrete, gas, etc. that goes along with these lines), etc.
- The cost to taxpayers between government subsidies and higher electric rates: \$100± Billion
- The cost to citizens for the loss of natural views, wildlife, peace & quiet: *PRICELESS!*

(Getting up to speed on Wind farms)

<http://www.ebookfree-download.com/ebook/getting-up-to-speed-on-wind-power-pdf.php>

As a contrast to the monetary expense and detrimental effects on numerous individuals health, the replacing of incandescent globes with low energy bulbs can and does make a difference as reported below.

*This isn't a perfect choice — none are***but just doing this would save MORE than the energy generated by 100,000± wind towers (i.e. twice the amount currently on the planet)!**

[Surprisingly, most light bulb manufacturers *favor* this (e.g. *NY Times*: March 14, 2007“A US Alliance to Update the Light Bulb”) <<<http://tinyurl.com/2x8ktg>>>.]

A variation of this choice is that the government could put a \$3 tax on every incandescent bulb sold. Then apply the subsidy money earmarked for wind power to *genuinely* benefit the environment (e.g. alternative energy research) and we could make some *real* progress here.

Late in 2007 the Australian federal government acknowledged the validity of this idea and outlawed incandescent light bulbs as of 2020. **2020!** This is typical of the mentality of many of the people who support wind power: they talk the talk, but don't walk the walk.

If politicians were serious about global warming they wouldn't endorse 12 more years of energy wastefulness, and

would have done something meaningful (like the tax), *immediately*.

Which do you think is the simplest, least expensive, and best environmental choice?

(Getting up to speed on Wind farms)

<http://www.ebookfree-download.com/ebook/getting-up-to-speed-on-wind-power-pdf.php>

In turn, environmental changes can affect wind power generation; a decline of wind speeds would reduce energy yield [119]. A model reported in the November 2010 issue of the *Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy* suggests that average wind speed over China could decline and cause a 14% loss of energy production by the latter part of the 21st century. Wind speeds may be declining due to climate change, increased forest growth, or the shadowing effect of wind farms themselves.

(119^ Peter Fairley, *A Less Mighty Wind*, in *IEEE Spectrum*, ISSN 0018-9235, January 2011, p 9-10)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power

Jon Boone, a word craftsman, accurately sums up the situation like this:

“I’ve concluded that industrial wind energy in the United States exemplifies American business at its worst: promising to *save the environment* while *wreaking havoc on it*.

“Spawned, then supported, by government welfare measures at *considerable* public expense, it produces *no meaningful product* or service yet provides *enormous profit* to a few wealthy investors, primarily multinational energy companies in search of increased bottom lines.

“It’s an *environmental plunderer*, using a few truths, many half-truths, and the politics of wishful thinking to frame a house of lies.

(Getting up to speed on Wind power)

<http://www.ebookfree-download.com/ebook/getting-up-to-speed-on-wind-power-pdf.php>

Do we in South Australia have to follow this lead and end up in the same environmental mess so many others countries have?

Thank you for this opportunity to add my thoughts. Hopefully the right decision for all Australians will be made, not those who will benefit financially from these ventures