

Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms Senate Committee Inquiry Submission

Wind farms are good for our society and our economy for the following reasons:

Current research and scientific investigations have found that there are no adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms

Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds

Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms reduce property values

The employment benefits are substantial and widely spread across regions, and provide considerable opportunities for individuals and communities where they are located, including the landowners who host turbines

Wind represents a clean, safe source of power that will never run out. In making the transition away from polluting coal, wind will help clean up our air, water systems and improve the health of our communities

Evidence from overseas is now showing that the installation of wind is actually dropping wholesale power prices. We need to invest further in wind power to manage rising energy prices

Wind farming is a form of renewable energy production. It is therefore an essential part of our response to climate change and our transition from dependency on fossil fuels that will run out before the end of this century. The Senate Committee should support provisions that would make the development of this industry more as easy as possible.

I trust that the Senate committee finds these points helpful in supporting the development of wind farms in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Gregory John Olsen