

Federal Government Senate Community Affairs Committee
Federal Government
Canberra ACT

10th February, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to make a submission for the current inquiry into the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms.

We are farmers in the Mid North region of South Australia near Burra. Our family has been owned and operated a farm in this region for 5 generations. We have enjoyed being a part of our rural community and value all that it has to offer.

Wind energy has been in our area for approximately 5 years. There are several wind farms currently operating and several more proposed due to the world class wind resource associated with our district. We do not currently have a wind farm, but have 15 turbines proposed for future development subject to approval.

Our experience with wind farm companies, particularly AGL has been very positive. They have been very professional, supportive and obliging at all times. The proposed wind farm would be of great financial benefit not only to us but to the whole community. Not only would the financial benefit enable us to stock our country more conservatively but there are the additional benefits of improved access roads through our country for our general management as well as fire and emergency services access. The community would benefit via grants made to community groups and functions as well as indirectly by providing an invaluable boost to the local economy during the construction phase and ongoing employment. The financial benefit of this type of development on the health and survival of county areas should not be underestimated.

We strongly support the development of wind energy in our region and believe that the majority of the community do also.

Yours Sincerely
Jo and David Gebhardt.