

## **Submission to the senate inquiry: The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**

Colin Briggs

Dear Senators,

I and my partner Pauline Ferguson are both enthusiastic investors in Hepburn Wind. While we do not currently live in the area, we do own land nearby (7km) and have commenced building a new house on the site with the intention of moving there permanently. One of the primary reasons for moving to Daylesford is because the community spirit is so positive and strong. The wind farm has only increased our belief that this is the case.

We do not expect to make a financial gain from our investment in the wind farm. Instead we see it as part of our community responsibility to act on climate change. We also see it as a moral investment in the future of our community and our country.

Hepburn Wind is also committed to the local community by contributing over \$1m in initiatives over the next 25 years. They will be donating more to the community than the landowner receives in lease fees.

We can only see that wind farm will have a positive social and economic impact on the Daylesford community.

It is a pity that the Government of Australia and its states do not share our community spirit and actually do much more about climate change by encouraging more wind farms. Instead they waste time and money on endless inquiries and committees so that very little is actually achieved.

Yours sincerely

Colin Briggs