

I write in support of rural wind farms.

It has been shown, both here and in Europe where there are a significantly high number of wind farms, that there are no ill effects on either humans or animals.

Statistical evidence has also shown that wind farms have no negative on property values. Indeed, land owners benefit from a new source of income without any measurable impact on farming operations.

However, the wind industry provides a great number of jobs and employs more people per unit of energy than either coal or gas generation. Communities at large benefit from a wind farm project and, in the case of Hepburn Wind, the Hepburn Shire will benefit from a return of over \$1,000,000 over the next 25 years.

It is worth noting that all Australian states already have well developed wind farm planning controls. Any changes to these controls should be equitably and consistently applied across other industries and be informed by science.

I respectfully suggest that the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would unnecessarily make the further development of the Australian wind industry more difficult or onerous. Rather, in this time of clear climate change and its negative impact, governments must be doing all that is possible to support and increase the renewable energy industries.

(Signed) Lyn Hamilton