

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived with alternative energy since the 1970s. This has included photovoltaic electricity, hydraulic rams for water pumping, solar water heating and various types of wind turbines.

Having read a submission by Friends of the Earth at <http://yes2renewables.wordpress.com/2011/02/01/senate-inquiry-into-the-social-and-economic-impact-of-rural-wind-farms/>

I feel I don't need to add anything to the case they have assembled for the viability and freedom from adverse effects of rural wind farms.

Instead, I would like to focus on the alternatives. Even if there were significant problems with wind farms, the problems caused by continuation of business as usual are far worse. The Black Saturday bushfires of 2009, this summer's unprecedented floods in eastern Australia, the fires of Russia in the last northern summer, the floods in Pakistan... Why are weather patterns becoming more extreme? It is global climate change, and caused by human activities. The evidence is overwhelming.

We need to significantly reduce energy use, and generate what we need by means that minimise our carbon footprint. Wind power must be part of a battery of measures. We need to get rid of the use of coal, and minimise or if possible eliminate the use of petroleum based fuels.

Sincerely,

Robert Rich, PhD

Dr Bob Rich
Commit random acts of kindness
