

Submission to Senate Inquiry:

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Dear Senators,

We are writing to express our concern at the nature and intent of this Inquiry, and to record our support for rural wind farms.

We would firstly like to state that we are disappointed that this review is even taking place. It appears to be a waste of our Government's time and resources by providing a soapbox for climate change deniers.

We are very supportive of renewable energy. There are too many disadvantages to our communities, our world, and our children by continuing to rely on fossil fuel powered energy.

How many times does our government need to review wind farm health effects? The National Health and Medical Research Council recently made the following statement on their website: "The Public Statement presents the current evidence relating potential health impacts of wind turbines on people living in close proximity. The Statement concludes that there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects."

We live in central Victoria and are keen supporters of Hepburn Wind, which is in the process of installing two wind turbines that will provide enough renewable energy for all of Daylesford, a community of more than 3,000 people. Imagine the savings in brown coal power generation and transmission costs (including power losses en route from Gippsland) and the reduced impact on the environment by this one wind farm.

The Hepburn Wind project is a fantastic, community-based, visible, proactive and practical exercise in demonstrating the benefits of renewable energy. Our Government needs to focus on encouraging and supporting renewable energy sources. This includes finding solutions to "issues" encountered, such as those suggested in the inquiry's terms of reference, rather than building barriers to their development.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alastair Greenall and Dr Brenda Greenall

7/2/11