

Submission:

Wind power is sensible response to climate change, as it is the most commercially and technically viable form of renewable energy. Hysteria is a poor substitute for science when making policy that may negatively impact on Australia's ability to provide power for the long term.

Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency sound are well within accepted thresholds and are comparable to naturally occurring phenomena. Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms negatively affect property values. Nor does any current research published in peer reviewed journals support claims that wind farms pose health risks for people living in close proximity. It is however established that small groups of vocal protestors are more likely to be responsible for the development of poor policy than well reasoned science.

Australian states already have a well developed wind farm planning controls which are among the most onerous in the world. Any changes to these controls should be equitably and consistently applied across other industries and be informed by science.

The Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would unnecessarily make the development of the Australia wind industry more difficult or onerous.