

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regard to the Senate enquiry into the social and economic benefits of wind farms. I live in Crystal Brook, with the Clements Gap PacificHydro wind farm situated nearby.

I was until recently the president of the Crystal Brook Cricket Club. Our club was successful in receiving significant funding through the Pacific Hydro community grants scheme. We are just one of many clubs who have so far benefitted from this invaluable scheme. The funding allowed us to purchase new playing uniforms, while many other local organizations were also able to undertake important projects which would have been difficult to achieve without Pacific Hydro's generosity.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for clubs and organizations in small country communities to raise funds, so any funding from 'new' sources is vital to the ongoing viability of these entities. The fact that Pacific Hydro have pledged to support the community on a long-term basis is also greatly appreciated by the community.

Local sporting clubs and other organizations such as show societies, history groups etc are an essential part of the fabric of any small community and as a local businessman we do our best to support these clubs as much as we can through sponsorships and donations. I have received many comments from members of clubs seeking sponsorship that it is a refreshing change to see a national business such as Pacific Hydro also willing to support local organizations as this is not a common occurrence.

I own and manage a farm supply business and deal with farmers on a regular basis, and those farmers who have had direct dealings with Pacific Hydro have provided very positive feedback on their relationship with the company.

Pacific Hydro has also played an important role by employing several Crystal Brook locals on a permanent basis. Some of these employees also have young families, so the fact they have remained in the town rather than having to find employment elsewhere has a greatly beneficial effect on the local economy, the local school and the local sporting clubs.

In my personal dealings with Pacific Hydro during my time as president of the Crystal Brook Cricket Club I always found their representatives to be helpful, professional and to have displayed a good understanding of the needs of the local community.

Yours sincerely

Mick Kerin