

Dear Sirs

I have worked for, and in, the wind industry for the past 11 years both in the UK and Australia. During my career as an environmental consultant I have been involved in the environmental assessment and planning of many new developments across a range of industries including land fill sites, mines, coal fired power stations, waste treatment facilities, solar projects and wind farms and therefore can provide comment regarding the different standards applied to new development in Australia.

All new development is necessarily subject to state planning laws and policies. These laws are put in place to ensure that development is subject to an appropriately rigorous assessment prior to approval/refusal by the appropriate authority. Within the system mechanisms exist to ensure appropriate public notification is carried out by the determining authority. It is now considered best practice for a certain level of public consultation to be carried out by developers and this is usually demonstrated within the planning application.

With respect to proponent led public consultation it is my experience that the wind industry goes above and beyond that expected of it by any planning legislation. In this respect wind farm developers have set a very high bench mark in the quality and extent of community consultation and many other industry sectors e.g. housing, mining, roads etc do not conduct nearly such exhaustive consultation. I request the Senate looks to the consultation practice employed by other industry sectors during the enquiry.

All wind farm planning applications are accompanied by comprehensive environmental impact assessments. Once again the wind industry has adopted a far higher standard of rigour and assessment when carrying out the assessments and ensure a raft of mitigation measures are embedded within the design or adopted during the construction/operation process. In addition much long term monitoring of identified potential impacts is carried out at wind farm sites in order to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessments. Again comparison of the environmental assessment process should be made with other industry sectors.

With respect to health impacts there is no medical evidence to link any health impacts to wind farms. Like all other development if inappropriately sited then the potential to cause annoyance to neighbours either from noise, shadow flicker or visual impacts (in the event that the neighbour does not like the turbines) does exist but to suggest that there is some other 'force' causing high blood pressure or ill health cannot be demonstrated. With respect to the need for an investigation into health effects of wind farms I draw your attention to the recent evidence of Gary Allen Wittert, Professor of Medicine and Endocrinologist, given at the ERD Court in Adelaide during the appeal against Acciona's Allendale Wind Farm. Prof Wittert makes it clear that with respect to the claims made of ill health caused by wind farms absolutely no link has been established as to the cause and effect of any health problems. I recommend the Senate reviews the transcripts of the case from the ERD Court. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) stated in 2010 that there is no medical evidence to suggest that wind farm cause adverse health effects. Again it is suggested that the Enquiry consult with NHMRC. Finally the Enquiry should look across all other forms of electricity generators to ascertain the types of complaints made from those living within the vicinity

of power stations.

Electricity demand in Australia continues to grow both due to population growth and increase in personal consumption. Meeting this demand remains a huge challenge to governments who now (mostly) rely on private industry to develop the solutions for them. For many, many reasons, not just to reduce green house gas emissions, there is a compelling case to start moving to a clean, renewable energy future. Wind farms are merely one form of electricity generation needed to contribute to Australia's long term, sustainable energy needs and action is needed to support their development in the context of appropriate planning controls.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that I support renewable energy development, including wind energy, both in Australia and across the world.

Yours sincerely

Jillian Adams