

Submission to the Senate Enquiry into

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Matters to be considered:

The social and economic impacts of rural wind farms, and in particular:

- (a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;
- (b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes;
- (c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income;
- (d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms; and
- (e) Any other relevant matters.

Regarding item (a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms:

I note that farming of wind for many purposes has occurred in many parts of the world in diverse forms over thousands of years.

In many instances human beings have lived and worked in very close proximity to their wind farming technology.

Examples of such longstanding close relationships include:

- Sailors living and working under the sails of yachts, ketches, windjammers. They have lived with the sound of the wind in their sails for years.
- People have also worked in and lived near their flourmills.
- It has been commonplace to see wind-powered electricity generating systems and water pumping windmills in the backyards of the homesteads of farms and stations and in country towns across Australia over more than a century.

Apart from injuries occasionally sustained by persons when working on their sail systems or windmills I am unaware of any adverse health effects of living in close proximity to them.

It should be noted that the development of major windfarms as is now taking place around the nation does not involve such close interaction between people and the technology as has been commonplace in the past.

Regarding item (b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes:

Many Rural Australians have grown up with and spent a lifetime listening to the whispering purr of the wind through the spinning blades of their mills and the sounds of clanking windmill rods near their homes, without known ill effects .

Having visited the South Australian wind farms at Mount Millar, Clements Gap, Starfish Hill and Lake Bonney and watched them and listened to them on a number of occasions in recent years, I cannot comprehend how the very low levels of sound emitted from them (or the undiscernible vibration) could adversely affect persons anywhere in the vicinity of systems of this nature.

Regarding item (c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income:

I begin by noting that wide spread adoption of systems which farm Renewable energy flows through our environment is a necessity as the inevitable exhaustion of all fossil fuels approaches .

Many people will argue that climate change effects due to greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, drive an even more urgent requirement for the uptake of renewable energy farming systems

Wind power is the most commercially and technically viable form for rapid and wide ranging uptake of renewable energy farming right now.

My contacts with cereal growing farmers in the vicinity of Mount Millar and Clements Gap wind farms in South Australia indicate strong support for the existence of the wind farms and no adverse economic effect to farm property values or farming operations.

In conclusion,

I urge the Senate Committee to make findings and recommendations which are supportive of and advocate the development of wind farming around Australia.

I have no requirement to request that any part of this submission be treated in confidence.

Yours Faithfully,

Andrew John Allerton Scott