

The Social and Economic Effect of Rural Wind Farms

Submission by Paul Kretschmer

My concerns regarding rural wind farms, as a rural resident, living in an area which is proposed for possible wind farm establishment are as follows:

1)Health concerns.

This is being researched and documented by Dr Sarah Laurie of the Waubra Foundation.

I think that until such time as the health impacts resulting from wind turbines being built in proximity to dwellings is established, that such projects should not proceed

2)Property values.

There is anecdotal evidence of property values dropping as a result of wind farm developments.

This needs to be established, and the proponents need to *guarantee* that nearby property values will not be adversely affected.

3)Social impacts

There is evidence that the establishment of a wind farm complex divides nearby residents and communities, and that the commercial proponents act in a coercive and secretive manner.

4)Landscape impacts

I live in the Flinders Ranges, an area of high scenic value, and this is recognised in the District Council's Development Plan, which seeks to preserve land of high environmental and scenic value.

The siting of wind towers on the top of the ridges and hills detracts from the landscape, and is completely at odds with the scenic qualities which both residents and visitors seek to appreciate.

The siting of wind towers should not be able to so easily override Council development Plans.

Paul Kretschmer 10/02/2011