

February 10, 2011

Naomi Bleeser
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Dear Naomi,

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

We are farmers at Badgingarra in Western Australia, and our farm is next to the Emu Downs wind farm.

I begin this submission by stating that we are very supportive of the expansion of this renewable energy industry, and that the presence of Emu Downs has had, no negative impacts on our farm.

The noise from the wind farm is negligible; in fact in a strong wind the noise from our trees is louder than the wind turbines. When the wind turbines can be heard they sound like distant surf at the beach, but are barely audible.

One of the advantages of building wind farms in farming areas is that they can provide good buffering between houses and wind turbines. Another is that any extra income to supplement farm income is always welcome. With the constant push to get more efficiency in the agricultural industry, country areas would welcome all new sources of employment.

The farms on which this wind farm is built were sold recently. The sale price seems to be consistent with recent sales of other land in the district with a value of around ten times earnings for the lease that the wind farm brings in.

This wind farm has only been in place for about 5 years and to our knowledge there have been no reports of adverse health affects.

I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this Senate inquiry and look forward to reading your final report, which I hope highlights the positive aspects of wind farms and more broadly renewable energy.

Yours Sincerely

Dale Park