

Geoff Kennedy

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To: The Senate Committee Investigation into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Dear Sirs & Madams

I have travelled extensively in Europe and Australia and have seen and experienced many wind farms in operation particularly in Europe. I have stood directly beneath enormous operating turbines in the Greek islands and been impressed by the lack of noise. I have never met nor heard of any person in any of these countries who has complained of any ill health effects as a result of wind farms and that includes those in Australia, (Esperance WA and Codrington Vic etc).

I have never met nor heard of any farmer who has complained of a loss of income as a result of wind farms let alone show proof of an impact on his farming activities and I have never heard a farmer complain about the rental income he receives from the wind turbine company for the use of his land.

I find the entire argument against wind turbines in this country specious and this enquiry a witch hunt and a negligent wast of taxpayers money. The negative attitude to this kind of technology in this country is an embarrassment.

Instead of the negatively framed terms of reference provided for your investigation I propose the following alternatives.

The inquiry's terms of reference should include investigating:

- any positive health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms and the population in general, for example: not dying as a result of an extreme weather event
- the lack of concerns over the noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes, as opposed to the concern over the emissions of a coal fired power station
- the positive impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income as opposed to the impacts of Coal Seam Gas extraction, currently of concern to the farmers of the Darling Downs.
- ways to improve the interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms in order to create fewer beauracratc obstacles and facilitate further and faster Wind Farm development.

yours Sincerely

Geoff Kennedy
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