

**To Federal Senate Inquiry
- Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**

9th February, 2011

As two of nearly 1600 investors in Australia's first community wind farm - Hepburn Wind, we wish to write in support of continuing investment in renewable energy such as wind farms.

We became involved in Hepburn Wind because of the frustration we have felt in seeing very little support from Governments around Australia in establishing renewable energy systems.

The Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO have highlighted the impacts of climate change, so it is time action was taken to manage the risks we all face.

Hepburn Wind may be small but it shows commitment and support from a local community concerned about our future. It has created three direct jobs and has spent \$2M in regional Victoria. Money will be donated to community initiatives over the next 25 years.

Hepburn Wind is expected to generate more electricity each year than is used by the houses in Daylesford and much of the surrounding area. If this could be duplicated in many small towns around the country it would have a remarkable impact on the reliance we have on fossil fuel energy sources.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recently concluded that "there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects."

Research by Adelaide consultancy Sonus has recently shown that low frequency noise levels at the beaches and in the CBD are typically higher than near wind farms.

Polling in regional NSW has shown that 85% of people supported wind power with the majority supporting it being built in their own communities.

Meryl and Peter Holland