

(...)

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We care about people, we care about rural communities and we care about our future.

As a health professional (...) knows how important it is to maximize health, avoid risks and live well. Our environment: our air, our trees, our water needs us to apply that same principal. There are individuals that feel threatened or affected by turbines. For these individuals it is unfortunate, however there is no scientific evidence that this effect has a physical basis. There are however many people that today have been effected by climate change, that today are still mopping up or rebuilding due to extreme weather events such as fire, flood and cyclone. These events are very real and we fear that they are going to be of greater and greater magnitude unless we as a nation and race act. We need to recognize that we cannot all continue to consume more and more resources without sacrificing some of our scenic view. But is it a sacrifice or is it a beautiful, peaceful reminder that we use energy, and we need to ensure it is renewable.

As two of almost 1600 members of Hepburn Community Wind Park we have spent many a cold morning greeting local, rural people on the street and discussing Wind Turbines. Yes, a handful were concerned about the health implications, more provided entertaining and completely unfounded theories, but most, the vast, vast majority believed that turbines are one of the essential solutions to ensuring we turn climate change around.

Our travels in Europe, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia have further reinforced our conviction that turbines, when appropriately positioned can be in harmony with the surroundings and local communities. Towns such as Albany in WA and the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia realize the interest that turbines attract and have successfully included them on the list of tourist activities for locals and visitors alike.

European communities have not just been forced by big power companies to live next to turbines; they have embraced these peaceful giants through the co-operative model that ensures the community owns their energy supply. These communities then reap the environmental, social and economic benefits. This is the model successfully applied by Hepburn Community Wind Park in Central Victoria and is hopefully the first of many. Hepburn Wind has created local jobs, brought in revenue and will contribute almost one million dollars in community funding over the life of the project. Projects like these require thousands of

voluntary hours, local commitment and visionary members. It is the role of local, state and federal governments to support these kinds of projects and provide guidance and drive, not speed humps.

Sadly Australia has a culture of being loudest when against something and keeping quiet when in support. Please remember that for every voice of objection there is bound to be 1000s in support.

Yours sincerely,

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