

Submission to Senate Committee on 'Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms'

1. We need to tackle climate change. The magnitude and frequency of extreme events is increasing and this is consistent with the warnings we receive from climate change studies. These studies clearly indicate that burning of fossil fuels is a significant contributor to climate change.
2. Australians are the highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases.
3. I therefore support an increasing price on carbon to progressively phase out the burning of coal, oil and gas and encourage the installation of low emission alternative energy supplies.
4. Wind power is currently the cheapest source of renewable, low emission energy.
5. Wind farms need to be widely distributed across the country to maximise continuity of electricity supply.
6. My wife and I bought shares in Hepburn Wind, now building Australia's first community wind farm. The project will cost \$13m and it will generate more electricity each year than is used by the houses in Daylesford and much of the surrounding area.
7. The Hepburn Wind project was supported by the Hepburn Shire Council. I understand there were 18 objectors and over 325 supporters responding to the planning permit application.
8. There are many sources of noise in the Australian environment: trucks, cattle, dogs, ambulances...
9. The disturbance caused by rural wind farms with wind turbines appropriately sited, appears to be minor compared to the impacts of
 - coal burning power stations with their heavy demands on water supplies as well as their damaging emissions,
 - petrol and diesel motor vehicles with their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts on health of their particulate emissions.

Robin Friday
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