



To the Senate Committee on Rural Wind Developments

The Institute is fully supportive of the Wind sector. The rural sector is suffering under considerable energy price impacts and many farmers have in recent times installed small to medium size wind turbines to save their business. The large wind sector has done an excellent job in fostering community leasing and co-operative arrangements that will reduce the burden of energy cost increase to the farming operations whilst delivering a positive impact on sustainable infrastructure.

The institute maintains that the key factor for political consideration in this country is not the endless debate about Climate Change, but a proactive approach that fosters investment in sustainable infrastructure that assists with community ownership, lower costs to primary producers and ushers in an era of smart micro-grids that secures Australia's employment and investment future.

To make an arbitrary finding against one of the most important and cost effective renewable energy options available to this country, is both counterproductive in the long run and highly suspicious of sectional political interests. Any findings by the committee against clear evidence of the positive impact of the wind sector on the Australian economy would be both contrary to established evidence as well as counterproductive to Australia's global reputation.

Since 2009 the number of small to medium rural installations has increased from 50 to over 2500 in 2010. The number of installations is likely to double again in 2011. In addition, the industry is poised to deliver more than 15,000 permanent rural jobs in the next 8 -15 years , as well as deliver approximately 3.6 billion dollars of investment into the Australian training sector. The Institute is currently in the process of negotiating overseas training contracts with more than 130 countries around the world. This would deliver an enormous number of overseas students into Australia's TAFE and University engineering sector and address the nagging skills shortages in the oil & gas, mining, high technology, IT , electrical, mechanical and all other engineering areas.

A negative finding by the committee will cause irreparable damage to Australia's international reputation.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Siegfried Angerer

Director Research Innovation & Education Development, AWEI