

Submission:

I've worked within the wind industry for nearly 8 years both in Australia and in Europe. The wind industry is a significant employer around the world and creates many direct jobs involved in the development, construction and operation of wind farms. In addition to those directly employed in the wind industry, the hospitality industry, haulage, local shops and industry all gain from input of capital into wind farms.

In many areas farming is a marginal activity; the leasing of land by wind farm owners, gives these landowners more security for their families' futures.

Turning to the effects of wind farms. We go to great lengths to ensure that our wind farms are acoustically, ecologically and visually benign forms of development.

To single out wind farms ahead of road, residential and commercial development is unfair and simply a political move to find favour. Extensive research has shown that the health impacts from wind farms is no different from other forms of development – and as far as energy generation sources are concerned has significantly less impact than coal, oil, nuclear and gas generation.

Wind is a clean and renewable source of energy and there should be no knee-jerk reaction for political reasons to restrict its development. Australia needs to reduce its carbon footprint and this is a good way of going about it.

**Stuart Whiting**