

I would like to declare that I work in the renewable energy industry.

I have now spent eight years in the Australian renewables industry constructing wind farms all over Australia and as such have experienced firsthand the impact that they have on rural and regional communities. Firstly, I can say without doubt that I have never come across adverse health effects from these installations or ever had any concern for such raised with me by people living in proximity of wind farms. On the contrary I have found all the communities that we have constructed wind farms near to be very excited and supportive as they have recognised the benefits and opportunities that such installations bring. Examples range from the additional jobs, to the purchases at local businesses or the tourism boost created. Many of these areas have recently suffered declining populations and the economically stifling effects of droughts that are likely brought on by exactly the climate change effects that such installations aim to counteract. There is little doubt in my mind that the revenue and increase in value of these areas is real, significant and will be maintained for decades to come.

It seems somewhat amazing to me that in a land that has such vast weather extremes and enormous potential for renewable development we struggle to facilitate the uptake of such beneficial technologies.

I hope that the senate will take on board my brief comments and support the regional jobs, rural income and environmental benefits that renewable energy brings.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Boyle