

## **SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms**

We oppose the construction of rural wind farms on the following grounds:

1. Wind farms cause visual pollution in the landscape. They can be seen from great distances, particularly as the windmills are very tall structures located on high ground, hills or mountains for gaining maximum exposure to wind.
2. They cause substantial noise pollution in the countryside. The noise generated by the wind turbine blades and gearboxes inconveniences and annoys residents who live up to 2 Km or more away. Neighbouring property values are adversely affected. Animals and birds are also affected adversely.
3. Banks of windmills with their long rotating blades constitute a grave hazard to flying birds.
4. As generators of electricity, they are unreliable and expensive. They work intermittently with the wind flow, thus necessitating the provision of backup power-generating sources for periods when there is little or no wind. Consequently, they cannot be relied on for producing baseload or peak period electricity.
5. They require large investment in backup power sources, and in inter-connection to existing transmission networks.
6. Wind-generated electricity costs about three times that of coal-fired electricity to produce. As a result, electricity consumers are disadvantaged by price rises as more wind-generated electricity supply is forced onto the supply authorities.
7. As a result, Australian industry, which enjoys a natural advantage because of cost-efficient coal-fired electricity prices, is disadvantaged by becoming less competitive in the international market. Inability to

compete in turn causes production outputs to decline, with adverse effects on manufacturing earnings, employment and associated service industries.

8. Australian employment resulting from wind farm construction is insignificant, as most of the equipment is imported.

9. The enacted renewable energy legislation that encourages wind farm construction, is based on the false premise that anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions cause global warming. The legislation's intent is to displace low-cost coal-fired power stations with high-cost wind, solar and other low CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting energy.

10. Federal Parliament and the Australian electorate have been misled and deceived by so-called climate scientists into believing in anthropogenic global warming (AGW). These scientists rely on assertion and on unvalidated climate models to project alarmist climate outcomes, and thereby exert substantial political and financial influence on politicians.

**11. There is no scientific evidence, peer-reviewed or otherwise, that anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have any significant measurable effect on average global temperature. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been searching unsuccessfully for such evidence for over 20 years.**

**12. The renewable energy legislation is neither scientifically nor economically justified.**

**13. The uncertainty about the causes of climate change dictates that there should be rigorous review of climate science, before any policy measures are contemplated. This review should be undertaken by a properly constituted Royal Commission, so as to minimise the influence of pro-AGW scientists and other vested interests.**

14. Implementation of bad policy cannot result in good social or economic outcomes.