

9th February 2011

Department of the Senate
Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: The social and economic impact of rural wind farms

My name is Sonny Chapman and I have been employed at Keppel Prince Engineering, Portland for 6 years in wind tower manufacturing. I moved to Portland from Shepparton as I had secured employment and the opportunity to train as a welder, so the wind industry gave me the opportunity to make the move.

Personally I like wind farms. I believe they are good for the environment and effective in reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

The economic benefits to Portland are clear – they keep a lot of people employed and without the industry it is likely Portland's unemployment rate would be much higher.

When I've driven out to the wind farms I've noticed many tourists taking photos and stopping to have a look at the towers.

Although they do change the scenery somewhat I do not believe the towers are an eyesore.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my opinion.

Regards,

Sonny Chapman