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Ref. climate change\archieco_wind_submission
9. February 2011

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
Submitted at: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/ Madam,

RE: Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

People across the nation support this vision as they know a shift to a clean energy economy will promote new jobs and billions of dollars in new investment. It will ensure cleaner air and water, will reduce the negative impact on health and farmland of our continued dependence on coal, and is critical to tackling the climate crisis.

We therefore make this submission with wholehearted support of the continued development and expansion of the wind industry in Australia.

We note:

- Current research and scientific investigations have found that there are no adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms.
- Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds.
- Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms reduce property values
- The employment benefits are substantial and widely spread across regions, and provide considerable opportunities for individuals and communities where they are located, including the land owners who host turbines.
- Wind represents a clean, safe source of power that will never run out. In making the transition away from polluting coal, wind will help clean up our air, water systems and improve the health of our communities.
- Evidence from overseas is now showing that the installation of wind is actually dropping wholesale power prices. We need to invest further in wind power to manage rising energy prices.
- Renewables are an essential part of our response to climate pollution, and the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would make the development of this industry more difficult or onerous.
- Wind farms are widely supported in the community.

Kind regards,
Stephen Lockhart