

Submission:

I write in response to the amount of negative feedback perpetuated by overseas climate change deniers, local NIMBYs and the plain ill-informed.

Wind farms are an integral part of our renewable energy mix and are a rapidly evolving technology, harnessed effectively overseas. Australia is already behind in this aspect, and failure to join in this technological advancement would be to our detriment, through the effects of climate change and the increasing costs paid for the externalities of coal. In addition, communities benefit from an increase in jobs, an influx of workers to boost local businesses as well as the long-term income for the land owner.

Contrary to popular belief, the audio effects of wind farms are negligible: modern turbines produce little noise pollution, equivalent to a quiet road or rustling leaves from just a small distance away. As a visitor to an operating wind farm earlier this year, I can tell you know the whoosh of the turbines is soft and inaudible a mere 300m away.

So should we allow the power supply of our nation, the longevity of our planet and the biological diversity of Earth to be jeopardised by trivial things such as aesthetics, a few birds, or concocted health studies backed by coal power suppliers? Of course not. Although it seems authoritarian to suggest ignoring local communities, if Australia is serious about finding alternative energy sources perhaps one couple or family may have to move to make way for a farm which could power tens of thousands of homes. Undesirable, yes, however even less important issues, such as transport links, are tackled using this philosophy.

Australia must catch up with nations which are seeking to pay their dues, as as a developing nation we are responsible for much of the world's climate woes, and emit an obscene amount of greenhouse gase per person. Sacrifices may have to be made, small ones, but still scarifices, however the gravity of our situation cannot be underestimated.

As part of the 'next' generation, I urge all politicians, regardless of the staus quo in your party, to inform yourselves on climate change and its urgency. Speak to the Chief Scientist of Australia, the climate scientists from the CSIRO or those from other organisations. The resources are there, the research is there- available to you- and they'd love to hear from you.

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