

Dear Sir,

Following on from the successful start to the Hepburn Wind Farm project in Victoria

I am writing in support of furthering the development of rural wind farms in Australia. This requires the support of both the Australian public and the Federal Government if we are to have any hope of making some positive impact on improving the cleanliness of power generation, regardless of whether or not one believes in climate change.

One of the simplest approaches is to further the use of renewable energy. At the present time, wind power is probably the most commercially and technically viable form. I am led to believe that wind farms pose no health risks to people living in close proximity. Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency sound are well within accepted thresholds and are comparable to naturally occurring phenomena. In addition, land owners benefit from a new source of income, without any measurable impact on farming operations.

With more than 100,000 turbines installed globally, wind farms are not new. Community wind farms are common in Europe - Denmark has more than 2,100. These projects empower local communities to constructively engage in the transition to a future with reduced pollution.

Communities benefit from job creation and the local investment that inevitably ensues. Wind farms are widely supported in the Hepburn community. The Shire received 343 letters in relation to the Hepburn Wind Project, with 95% in support. Recent NSW polling shows more than 85% support wind power.

Australian states already have a well developed wind farm planning controls. Any changes to these controls should be equitably and consistently applied across other industries and be adequately informed by science.

I am led to believe that many submissions to this Senate enquiry are from the very vocal minority that opposes action on climate change. This has always baffled me. It is akin to us all being in a lifeboat at sea that is slowly sinking, and some of the unlucky number on board refusing to bail out the water unless everyone else agrees to do so simultaneously. A very myopic viewpoint; one could even argue suicidal!

If we are to have any significant impact on climate change, the Senate Committee should ensure that any provisions they propose should help to facilitate the development of the Australia wind industry rather than hold it back.

Regards,

Roy Whitworth