

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Inquiry: The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

To: Senate Community Affairs Committee

On behalf of South West Sport I would like to provide this submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into 'The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms'.

South West Sport is an incorporated not for profit community association that services the 5 local government areas of Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Warrnambool and Southern Grampians. South West Sport's membership comprises of community sport and recreation organisations within the South West Region.

South West Sport's aim is to be 'the support and development hub for sport and recreation in South West Victoria'.

A key reference in our Strategic Plan 2010 - 2013 conveys a strong commitment and responsibility to environmental sustainability as a peak body within the South West region.

This strategic reference to environmental sustainability is not only underpinned by our commitment and responsibility to a sustainable future it is also a statement of our support for the new age energy development within our region that provides many social, economic and environmental benefits.

One of our first initiatives to be delivered out of our Strategic Plan under *Objective 1.8 Commitment to Environmental Sustainability was to purchase 100% Green Energy - Wind.*

Our Board of Management's decision was not taken lightly due to the additional costs associated with the purchase of Green Energy.

Our organisation's decision was made on the following grounds:

- Our strategic commitment to environmental sustainability
- Our responsibility to environmental sustainability as a peak/lead organisation in the region
- The support for economic development and employment opportunities through the development of new age energy in the region
- The social and environmental benefits and legacies that corporate organisations associated with the development of new age energy make to the community through corporate giving programs.

South West Sport, like many hundreds of other community not for profit groups, have benefited from corporate giving programs. In particular, our organisation has been the beneficiary of support from the Pacific Hydro Sustainable Community Fund.

Since our involvement with Pacific Hydro we have been able to provide healthy lifestyle participation opportunities for over 20,000 rural/regional participants in a major event (South West Games) creating:

- Access for participants aged from 5 - 100
- \$2 million dollars in economic benefits

SWSA

Inc. A0007625D

WARRNAMBOOL OFFICE

'Sports House'
34 Koroit Street
P.O. Box 679,
Warrnambool,
Victoria 3280

Tel: (03) 5561 1689

Fax: (03) 5562 8589

Email:

swsa@southwestsport.com.au

HAMILTON OFFICE

Hamilton Leisure
& Aquatic Centre
Gordon St
P.O. Box 436,
Hamilton 3300

Tel: (03) 5572 3543

Fax: (03) 5572 3543

Mobile: 0407 098 015

Email:

lyn.swsa@datafast.net.au



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VicHealth

HEALTH THROUGH PARTICIPATION

- Community capacity building opportunities through club education and training workshops
- Inclusive participation opportunities for people with a disability

Throughout the relationship with Pacific Hydro there has been mutual openness and honesty to ensure that the partnership results in maximum benefits for the community

South West Sport is very selective with its partners to ensure that our organisation maintains a high level of integrity and standing both within the community and with our other partners that include: local government, state government, federal government, the corporate sector; community not for profit organisations, and philanthropic foundations.

The association of our organisation with new age energy, in particular Pacific Hydro wind farms, has been nothing but positive in terms of the support provided to deliver economic benefits as well as healthy and active lifestyle opportunities in a safe and sustainable environment.

Yours faithfully
(...)

Michael Neoh
Executive Officer