

Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir

Subject: Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

I am a professionally qualified executive with a background in finance, who has for the past 8 years been working in the wind industry, both in Australia and overseas.

During that time my roles have varied from structuring funding options for utilities to purchase wind assets in Europe, acquiring over \$500m of renewable energy assets for a developer in Australia to my current role as a Business Development Manager for a wind turbine manufacturer and service provider in Australia, where I have been personally involved in finalizing contracts with utility companies to deliver over 300MW of wind energy.

As a result of this experience, I am very familiar with policy frameworks and the exhaustive development process and rigorous standards, particularly in relation to noise, environmental impact and cultural heritage, that Australian wind farms need to adhere to before planning approval is granted.

I have spent considerable time at wind farms located in rural areas and agree that whilst the wind turbines do make some noise, just like any other piece of industrial equipment, in my experience that noise is not excessively loud. The noise has never impacted on the business that I undertake at the wind farms, nor impacted on my health or hearing. Furthermore, I am not aware of any reports of ill health as result of the noise or vibration of turbines from any of the vast number of employees and contractors who work on wind farms daily.

I have witnessed first-hand the social and economic benefits that wind farms have delivered to local communities. For example, the mid north region of South Australia and particularly the town of Jamestown has benefitted enormously as a direct result of the construction and operation of the 4 Hallett wind farms. These have resulted in the provision of many permanent jobs and substantial growth of many local businesses that provide services to the wind farms.

Australia's energy industry needs to transition to a low carbon future to meet the mandated requirements of the Renewal Energy Target and generate 20% renewable energy by 2020.

I am proud to be associated with an industry that is helping to meet these requirements, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a more sustainable environment for future generations.

Yours Sincerely
Sonia Teitel