

I am writing this submission on behalf of Katoomba Area Climate Action Now, based in the Blue Mountains of NSW. We are a group of concerned citizens who see climate change as the greatest threat to life on this planet. We believe that the adoption of renewable energy sources is vital to the mitigation of the worst effects of climate change.

Wind farms are an excellent solution to providing clean energy. We find the sight of turbines on hillsides pleasing aesthetically especially compared to the holes scoured out of the earth by open-cut coalmines.

Despite some concerns voiced in the wider community about noise of the turbines, we are sure that this noise is no worse than the noise created by trucks and rail lines carrying coal to power stations and for export. We live along the western NSW rail line where coal is transported day and night to the coast, so we know about industrial noise associated with the energy sector.

Other concerns expressed about the health effects of wind farms must surely fade in comparison to the health effects on people living in the Hunter Valley near open cut coal mines. The rates of asthma and other ill health have been documented and the small concerns of some, that the noise of wind turbines will effect people's health, are surely minor.

In our area we have a small wind farm at Hampton where electricity is generated free from any pollution and without the need for water, as in coal-fired power. The owner is able to run his farm around the turbine and make an income from the power generated. This is surely a win-win for farmers and others who live in windy areas.

Wind power is a way that communities can band together to invest in energy and help themselves manage rising energy prices. It is a sustainable solution that can be taken up at a local level.

Our local community has been investigated for wind power but is considered insufficient for it. Katoomba Climate Action Now would gladly support wind energy as a positive step towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

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