

Submission:

Good morning folks,

I would like to make a short submission to the committee studying the potential impacts of wind generated electricity.

I am sure that you are fully aware of the environmental benefits of wind turbines, and I would assert that their impacts are much less than their benefits – I have visited many installations in Victoria and NSW, including Yambuk, Ararat, Waubra, Cowra and Crookwell (the first to be connected to the grid in NSW). I find them attractive to look at, and less intrusive to the landscape than other types of electricity generation (with the probable exception of PV solar, but I haven't seen a large installation of them yet), and from the observation platforms, the noise is undetectable.

The only visual concern I have could relate to very large installations of several hundred turbines which should be located carefully. The installation at Waubra mentioned above is getting towards the maximum size I believe.

In my own case, I was keen to install some form of electricity generation on my suburban house, but because I have an asbestos roof, PV solar was not a suitable option, so I have voted with my wallet and offset my own emissions by purchasing “shares” in a very small community wind generation scheme in central Victoria.

While it is unlikely at this time that wind/solar PV could replace coal for generating electricity, I urge the committee to recommend that these more benign forms of electricity generation be encouraged to meet the growing gap between generation and demand. Reduction in this demand should also be explored – huge amounts of electricity are wasted in domestic and commercial situations.

All the best with your deliberations.