

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Feb 9, 2011

Dear Sir/ Madam,

A Response to the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

I believe renewables are an essential part of Australia's response to climate change, and the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would make the development of this industry more difficult or delayed in anyway. As a ACF Climate Presenter I am well aware of the research and scientific investigations regarding wind farms and their impact of public health. I live in the proximity of the Ararat Wind farm and the proposed Oakland's Hill Wind farm and Macarthur Wind farm that are currently in construction, many of the population living around these proposed sites are known to me and the major consensus I perceive, is that they are welcome. It is generally understood that research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds.

Wind farms have created another dimension of diversity in our rural area here. The employment benefits have been substantial and have provided opportunities for individuals to work in small country towns and rural environments when they may otherwise have had to leave to procure employment in a metropolitan setting. Furthermore, the economic flow on effect is felt within the whole community. As the director of a Hydraulic Engineering company we have done some work for the Oakland's Hill Wind farm in its construction phase and look forward to a continued business relationship as diversity in industry base in rural areas leads to a resilient local economy and a more secure future in what are uncertain agricultural times.

Wind farms are widely supported in my community.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

~~Helen~~ Helen Henry
Director, Henry's Hydraulics Pty Ltd
Presenter, Climate Project, ACF
Founder, Future Makers, Hamilton (community group)