

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission to express my overwhelmingly strong support for the development and operation of wind farms in rural Australia.

I have worked for a large Australian developer of wind farms for in excess of five years and am extremely proud to be part of what I believe to be an overly positive, environmentally and socially responsible industry. I am proud that my industry, and my firm, are working towards an overall reduction in Australia's carbon footprint whilst providing significant employment opportunities in both regional Australia and in capital cities.

It is my strong belief that wind farms, appropriately sited, enjoy overwhelmingly strong community support. I believe that the strong support is based upon a number of key benefits of regional wind farms, including –

- Improved employment opportunities in regional areas, whether directly at wind farms or indirectly at firms providing services wind farms (for instance, labour hire companies, crane hire companies, electrical contractors), both during the construction and operating phases of wind farms;
- Improved economic conditions in local communities through direct spend associated with wind farms (for instance, sale of petrol, food, stationary supplies, spare parts to wind farm service crews);
- Improved land values through rents received by landowners from wind farm companies;
- Improved tourism opportunities linked to wind farms; and
- Pride associated with having infrastructure directly aiding in reducing Australia's carbon footprint (of which I, and I believe the majority of Australians, are incredibly and increasingly concerned) located in their area.

I urge committee members to look closely at the overwhelmingly positive impact of wind farms on local communities. I have read with interest articles against wind farms and note that I do not support their views, nor do I believe that they are reflective of the broader community, whether regional or city based.

Please note that this submission reflects my personal views, and not necessarily those of my employer.

I am available for further comment at your discretion.

Kind regards,

Nick Lilley