

Submission to the Federal Senate inquiry into the social and economic impact of rural wind farms

From: **Adam Blakester**

Submission:

“I write in support of rural wind farms.

They of course need to be developed well, There are no blank cheques in life. Well, none that don't bounce that is.

Wind farms provide clean energy, and clean development for regional Australia that complements agricultural pursuits.

The concerns reflected in the Senate Inquiry, which it must be said are so clearly negatively biased, are well recognised. There is solid, peer reviewed, science addressing each of them.

Electricity is an essential part of modern life, and our current generation is outdated and outmoded.

Clean, renewable and sustainable energy is the way we need to go. The benefits include protecting our water tables, soil, agricultural lands, air quality, and climate. There are more.

However, as I've said, this isn't a blank cheque to industry, or community, development of wind.

Rather, we need robust regulation, monitoring, planning and participatory public decision-making processes.

Europe and North America have extensive success in this regard. Let's not force wind farms off shore like has happened with the solar power expertise we lost decades ago to China, the USA and Europe!!

Australian has good wind farm planning controls which are among the most onerous in the world. Any changes to these controls should be equitably and consistently applied across other industries and be informed by science.