

Subject: Extreme Weather Events and Wind Turbines in Australia

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications.

I wish to respond to an invitation for my voice to be heard regarding the fact that Australia does not have an environment anything like Europe's much more temperate climate.

I would ask all Senators if they have ever considered that a large proportion of wind farms, either constructed or approved in Australia, are in areas totally unsuitable for large industrial turbines. The fighting of bush and grassfires anywhere near these extremely tall structures makes aerial firefighting a dangerous and hazardous exercise and ground fighting by our firefighters sometimes a futile task as they are not to approach within 1 Km of a burning turbine which is often dropping burning debris on to tinder dry countryside.

My concern is because I live 1000 metres from 150 metre high turbines, the development of which in the Moorabool Shire in Victoria has been approved but not yet commenced. 1.5.Kms north of the facility is a large Australian native forest which in turn backs on to a major freeway, the Western Freeway.

Craig Lapsley, head of the Victoria CFA described this area as one of the most fire prone areas in Australia, if not the world

Please Senators, in your roles as the most senior and influential policy makers in Australia, do not let vested interests or party line policies dictate to you but consider the impact on our small rural population if wind farms are approved in the wrong places.

Yours sincerely
Angela Kearns (Mrs.)