

February 9 2011

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

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Community Affairs,

RE: Improved Sleep Due to Wind Farms

We live in metropolitan Hawthorn but share the same atmosphere as the potential wind farm regions of Australia - the same dynamic atmosphere that threatens our climate as its carbon content silently soars from the burning of fossil fuels which we voraciously extract from the Earth.

The impact of Wind Farms on our family of four is that we sleep better at night. We sleep better in the knowledge that man's ingenuity has at last started to diversify our energy supplies to draw on harmless abundant resources such as wind, solar and soon; the tides and hot rocks under the Earth.

Skeptics dismiss the urgency of embracing a change to clean energy with claims that the carbon threat is 'unproven'. This seems reminiscent of our reticence to accept that smoking causes lung cancer. How long did that take to 'prove' through the courts? Fifteen years or so?

We find concerns that people's views of rolling pasture have been affected difficult to accept when two centuries ago there was forest and scrub instead of cleared pastures.

We are saddened by potential impacts on bird life but estimates of dozens of bird kills at wind farms become a welcome option when the alternative is potentially the loss of countless species over the coming decades if the International Panel on Climate Change is right. A raft of experts have estimated annual bird losses due to traffic impacts to be in the millions per European Country¹. How then can we dismiss wind farms on the grounds of dozens of bird losses while we stay silent on these millions of avian deaths?

We appreciate that Governments are installed for short periods of time but hope that this committee can look well beyond the next election and consider the long term impacts of supporting a broadening of our energy base. Please help clean energy to flourish.

Lastly, please consider the wisdom of Dr Seuss: "*I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongue.*" The Lorax 1971

Georgina Banks

Kingsley Slipper

Scarlet Slipper

Frederica Slipper

¹ Spellerberg (1998); Davenport & Davenport (2006); Svennson (1998); Hodson (1966);

Jonkers & De Vries (1977); Seiler et al (2004)