

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a shareholder/member of Hepburn Wind.

I own a property at 76 Central springs Road, Daylesford.

I am very frustrated that our state and federal governments are not doing enough to address climate change. I really do like the idea of our community owning and benefiting from its own infrastructure and I do just want to see more of our electricity generated without pollution.

I note that when our planning permit went to council, there were only 18 objections, but more than 325 letters in support of our community wind farm.

It seems unfortunate that the very vocal minority that opposes action on climate change, renewable energy and wind farms are continuing to make noise.

I note that as he prepares to pack up his desk in Canberra, Senator Steve Fielding has fired the parting shot in his climate change denial campaign by organising a Federal Senate inquiry into the ['Social and economic impact of rural wind farms'](#).

I note the inquiry's terms of reference include investigating:

- any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms
- concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes
- the impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income
- the interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms

As one of nearly 1600 investors in Australia's first community wind farm, I believe that collectively we are the proof that under the right conditions, wind farms are a welcome addition to regional communities. I like to reinforce that it is my view that the majority of Australians are very supportive of renewable energy and want to see more of it.

Some points to support my case are:

- The [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC) recently concluded that "there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects."
- [Research](#) by Adelaide consultancy Sonus has recently shown that low frequency noise levels at the beach and in the CBD are typically higher than near wind farms.
- [Recent polling](#) in regional NSW has shown that 85% support wind power with the majority supporting it in their communities.
- Hepburn Wind has already created three direct jobs, and our project has already spent more than \$2m in regional Victoria with more to come.
- Our project was subject to strict planning conditions through the approvals process and will be closely monitored for compliance with some of the strictest environmental controls in the world.

- Our project will contribute \$1m to community initiatives over the next 25 years. In fact, we'll be donating more to the community than we pay in lease fees to the landowner at Leonards Hill.
- Hepburn Wind is expected to cost \$13m and generate more electricity each year than is used by the houses in Daylesford and much of the surrounding area. At the equivalent of less than \$6000/house, no other renewable energy solution comes close.

I make this personal submission to the enquiry expressing my support for renewables in general and specifically, I became involved in Hepburn Wind because it is the right thing to do at this time, it is a responsible action and I do believe that it should not just be left up to Governments to take responsibility and take action.

The benefits of such models bring to the community are immense and lead the way for for our country to catch up and may be even the way to other countries. To do nothing is just not an option.

Yours sincerely,

**Norman McMurray** | Legal Executive