

Submission:

I write in support of rural wind farms. I have two main reasons for supporting this:

1. Locking ourselves into old technology that is both destructive and finite is limiting our future and future generations. We should be broadening our base for energy supply.
2. Community wind farms are a new model that is more relevant for the times we live. Having a community's backing is an added bonus.

On the first point, there is much scientific evidence to show there are health problems associated with coal fired power stations and coal is a finite resource.

To diversify our energy base and assist the new technologies will take us to the next level of energy production. Continuing to limit ourselves to a small number of sources of energy will consign us to be tied more heavily to those sources and as the world moves from coal, perversely we will be obligated to continue to support the local product and continue to extract and use these resources to our detriment.

Having the community behind an initiative such as community wind farms is a far cry from the angst that is caused when proposing a new coal fired power station.

The example of communities working together on commercial energy projects is new to us here in Australia, but is more acceptable in places overseas. However, Australia does have a very good example of community based commercial projects – Bendigo community banks. This is a new way to provide banking services where the old model does not fit.

In a similar way, community wind farms are appropriate where the old model does not fit or needs changing. It is time for a change, the old model does not always work.

It is for these reasons I propose the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would unnecessarily make the development of the Australia wind industry more difficult or onerous.

Glenn Bailey