

Senate Inquiry into the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms.
February 2011

I am writing to express strong support for rural wind farms.

(b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes;

I have visited most of Victoria's and some of South Australia's wind farms. I would much prefer the sight of majestic turbines smoothly turning to the sight of the steam and smoke from the chimney stacks at Yallourn and Morwell.

I have camped overnight within 500 metres of a working turbine and the noise from the beach was louder than that of the turbine. However, the current 500 metres from existing dwellings may need to be negotiated in each case to reach a fair and reasonable agreement

(e) Any other relevant matters.

Fairness

I believe that land holders would be more supportive of wind farms in their area, if the neighbouring land holders were paid compensation. It seems that currently only the owners of the wind farm land receive payment. Thus absentee farmers have nothing to lose, while their neighbours are left with spoiled views and perhaps a decline in property value. Neighbouring landholders (within view of turbines and within 1 or 2 kilometres) should receive payment from the turbine company also.

Wind power is an important part of

reducing pollution,
increasing distributed energy sources,
increasing employment in the green economy and
building community. Many communities would build small wind power farms if there
were the incentives that exist in Germany.

With climate change being the worst disaster currently facing our generation and those to come, we must make it easier for wind farms to be built. If only there were incentives for the investment in necessary infrastructure, Australia could catch up with other countries in wind power capacity.
