

I have previously sent a submission, but it was originally sent to a number of politicians and aimed at getting research into possible/alleged health impacts of wind farms. This submission is more specific to the subject of the Senate Inquiry.

My background

I spread my time between Clare and Crystal Brook, both in Mid-North SA. My two properties are within site of five wind farms, Clements Gap, Snowtown, Hallett #1, 2 & 4. I have had a long interest in environmental matters, and wind power in particular; I maintain a Net site at <http://ramblingsdc.net/Australia/WindPower.html>. This site is aimed at providing unbiased and factual information on wind power in Australia. I receive no payment of any sort from the wind industry or any pro-wind group.

Benefits of wind farms

Wind farms have provided a huge amount of economic and social benefit to rural Australia and my region in particular. They are one of the largest local employers, they bring much needed money into the community in payments to land-owners, work for local contractors, and donations to community programs (Pacific Hydro in relation to the Clements Gap Wind Farm alone provides \$50 000 per year for community projects).

The number of people who suffer some disadvantage seem to me to be greatly outnumbered by the number who are advantaged. My impression is that most of the objectors are motivated by either the NIMBY factor, or envy of those of their neighbours who are profiting from wind farms on their properties. Those who claim that wind turbines cause ill-health are unable to explain how this happens; exactly what it is in a wind turbine that can make a person sick. Claims of reduced land values near wind farms have not been substantiated. Some claim that wind turbines are noisy; I have visited many wind turbines and have never heard one that could be called noisy; I have twice slept beneath an operating wind turbine and both times had a good night's sleep.

The greatest single social benefit, in my opinion, is the abatement of greenhouse gasses due to wind power. If we did not have the wind farms more coal- or gas-fired power stations would have had to be built, doing more damage to our climate, ocean acidification, etc.

Thank you, David Clarke.