

6 February 2011

Department of the Senate
Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Inquiry Into Impact Of Rural Wind Farms

I am familiar with the coast in south west Victoria, particularly the Codrington – Yambuk area, where I have family connections.

I know this area quite well, as I am part of a group (Far West Friends of the Hooded Plover) who help monitor and support the threatened hooded plover along the coast, which I regularly visit.

Because of my love of wildlife, and holding conservation values, I have been very interested in the development of wind farms in this area, and the reaction of farming communities to the developments.

I would like to submit the following observations:

- I know a number of farmers who have wind farms on their properties or adjoining their properties, and I find very few negative reactions.
- Rural communities are generally accepting of alternative energies and are far more aligned to 'green' technologies than in previous generations.
- The turbines produce far less noise than one expects.
- Many people would be quite happy if domestic turbines were readily available for use in rural areas also, so that individuals could utilise the wind, and their community could further share in the benefits of the windiness of the area.
- I find the use of coastal areas for wind farms is a lot more desirable and more compatible than the often inappropriate development that takes place along coast strips, damaging sensitive ecologies along the way, and adding to the destruction of some species such as the hooded plover due to the inundation of people/vehicles and animals on beaches.
- The only negative feedback of any type I have had expressed to me is where some people find some turbines have encroached too close to natural features that have high visual attraction to tourists and local communities, and that some of these places should be recognized for their visual attraction primarily over wind generation, with judicious placement of turbines.

Yours faithfully,

Toni Ryan