

A letter to the Senate Community Affairs Committee,

In my late teens I had a strong feeling that the thick plumes of smoke that were billowing from power stations and many other factories could not be good for the atmosphere. I didn't know why, or what effect it might have on our planet or people but it seemed to me that it couldn't be for the best. When I read about acid rain that was affecting the Black Forest in Russia I think from memory and it's decaying affect on buildings etc. that further convinced me that perhaps something should be done. I was at the time working on our family farm at Tarrone in western Victoria. I then got married , produced four children and ran the family properties. In the late Eighties it became evident that the seasons were changing, first I noticed that the rain was lasting longer into the summer, then the winters became drier and warmer and the spring rain was coming later. This didn't seem to difficult to take, the warm winters were easy on both stock and farmers and we were getting enough hay to get us through the winters and later autumn breaks. We are probably lucky though that we live in south western Victoria because it seemed that most of the rest of the country was suffering from extended droughts, and all we could do was on a couple of occasions donate some hay when we had enough to do so. I am certainly glad that I don't have as yet anyway had to suffer their financial and emotional pain. One can only but imagine.

Global warming has been the catch cry now for some considerable time. Icecaps melting at an alarming rate and sea rises of some meters are being suggested by some scientists. This all sounded a little much over the top to me at first, after all in the seventies some scientists were suggesting that we were in for an ice age. But here we are with unprecedented floods from north to south, record strength cyclones and tropical weather in the far south. I am again thinking that something should be done, what?, I don't know, but I do know that producing more of our power from renewable sources will not have a negative effect on our planet or people. I am for this reason a believer that the production of wind farms is something that most definitely should be encouraged. I have at this point allowed AGL to purchase enough land to site a transfer station for the Macarthur wind farm and signed a right to Union Fenosa to position wind turbines on my property. I have made it my business to research wind towers by visiting them in windy weather to check for myself whether they were loud or not, whether or not flicker was a problem and whether they were a blight on the landscape. It was after this that I decided I would be happy to have them on my property, and far closer to my house than two kilometers, that's ridiculous in my opinion. In closing I would just add that my favorite pastime is to sit off the coast at Yambuck and Codrington and watch the blades turn slowly and effortlessly in the wind.

Yours sincerely   Russell Brian