

Senate Wind farm Inquiry

Submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee report on the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms.

Submitted by

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Confidentiality is not necessary

Submission summary statement

I would like to comment on the following:

(a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms

I have serious concerns regarding the health effects on my family and neighbours as I have had personal experience with headaches when I am within proximity to turbines. Having read some of the research which is being conducted at the moment I have serious concerns for our ability to remain living in the area if the wind development proposed for our area (Collaby Hill) goes ahead as all proposed turbines are within 2km of a residence.

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

Having visited several wind developments in Australia I have grave fears for our very quiet location of Beetaloo Valley. The turbines I have been near are **all** noisy and if they were to be built in this area they **will** be heard and felt as this area is very peaceful. With over 30 residences within the area there are a lot of people who will be directly affected.

(c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income

We have 2 properties in the proposed area and we have been watching land values in operational wind development areas either drop or be bought by the wind companies only for above market value. We love the area we live in and don't want to have to move or lose the value of our property just because a wind development is put in an inappropriate location too close to people.

(d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms

There should be set rules and guidelines for all wind developments and the rules/guidelines should cover the whole country (and in fact the whole world) to protect people's well being and lifestyle.

(e) Any other relevant matters.

There should be a full and independent study done on the health effects on humans and animals of wind turbines.

I also have serious fears regarding the issue of fires in and around turbines as our area is very vulnerable.

Our area is very popular to tourists because of its natural beauty and I feel the placement of turbines in the area would drastically reduce the number of tourists coming to the Southern Flinders Rangers.

The safety of wild life in the area is also a concern as there are many eagles and other raptors plus several species of bats living in the area and they are known to be affected by turbines. The safety of ground dwelling fauna is also at risk with the construction of the turbines and the constant maintenance required on them after operation begins.