

Submission for a Senate Commission Enquiry
The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

I work for a renewable energy company.

This was not really a chosen career move for me, more that I was interested in renewable energy even though I knew very little about it.

I have worked in the industry now for 4 years starting on a Construction site and watching a wind farm being built around me.

During the construction of the wind turbines people would come and go most of the day and would park up and down the road watching the turbines being assembled.

Some folks would even set up their tables and chairs and would have lunch, morning or afternoon tea whilst they were watching.

The public would often ask questions if a worker was about to answer them.

It was not only humans that enjoyed the turbines as birds could be seen gliding and playing in and around them and there was a quiet acceptance from the cows and kangaroos that lazed in the shade of their shadows.

People who come to visit our town are excited to be able to see the wind farm close up and marvel at their impressive stature and size.

Four members of my family have been employed directly and indirectly because of the wind industry as have many in the town and surrounds; and there are broader economic benefits flowing on into the community from this employment.

Small towns rely on such industries; industries like the wind industry who keep giving to the community for years long after the wind farms have been built.

Lee Harrison