

Submission:

I am an enthusiastic supporter of wind farms.

They enable us to generate electricity over a long period without continually depleting finite energy resources. Whether or not you believe in climate change, that is a point in their favour.

However I have been convinced by climate scientists, who do not have ties with old-fashioned energy production, that climate change is real – and demands that we reduce our carbon emissions (which wind farms can help us do).

While I lived in the Netherlands some years ago, I had the opportunity to see and hear windmills in operation. I found them beautiful and the noise, while surprisingly loud when I was close to them, was not intrusive when I was a bit further away. I can easily believe the research findings that show no health risks for people living near wind farms.

There are advantages in generating power by wind farms in increasing employment in rural areas.

It seems to me sensible to generate power closer to where it is used so that less is lost in transporting it. In Victoria, for example, wind farms could provide power in both the eastern and western sides of the state.

So convinced am I of the value of wind farms and their important role in electricity generation in the future, that I have gladly invested my own money in the Hepburn Community Wind Farm. Nearly 1600 other people have contributed their own money, too. Community support should be harnessed to generate more electricity similarly. There would not be a problem finding the supporters.

There are strict planning provisions for wind farms, as there should be. The Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would unnecessarily make the development of the Australia wind industry more difficult or onerous.”