

9th February 2011

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

**The social and economic impact of rural wind farms**

I'm a worker at Portland's Keppel Prince Engineering. I completed my apprenticeship here and am now a fully qualified electrician involved in wind tower maintenance. The wind industry gave me the opportunity to stay in Portland because without it I believe it is unlikely I would have been able to secure the same training and employment opportunities. It was important for me to be able to stay in Portland as this is where I have lived all my life and am involved in sporting clubs and have good friends and family.

I have a two year old son and my job here allows me to support my young family.

Most people I have spoken with live in Portland think wind farms are a lot better than the alternative energy sources including coal and nuclear power.

From a personal point of view wind towers look good and aren't particularly noticeable.

Thanks,

Luke Van Heugten