



NOSKE GROUP
A.B.N. 42 007 242 515
PO Box 419 Brighton, VIC 3186
p. 1300 4 NOSKE f. (03) 9592 4850
e. info@noskegroup.com.au w. www.noskegroup.com.au

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10th February 2011
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOSKE WIND ENERGY LOGISTICS RESPONSE TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

NOSKE Wind Energy Logistics' role to date has featured heavily around the supply of services to support the construction and completion of Wind Farm Projects in Australia. This has primarily been served by the project management and transportation requirements of these projects. To follow Noske Wind Energy Logistics would like to provide a response to inquiry in regards to the social and economic impact of rural wind farms in Australia.

ADVANTAGES OF WIND FARMS

Noske Wind Energy Logistics exposure to a variety of Wind Farm Projects has found that the local communities are largely supportive of the projects. This stems from the direct economic benefits such projects bring to the community and surrounds; but also socially via the employment generating aspects that are associated with Wind Farm Projects.

Wind energy is local. Wind energy projects keep more energy dollars in the communities where projects are located and provide a steady income through lease payments to the landowners. Wind energy projects also pay significant property taxes and state taxes each year and create local jobs. In addition, when compared with traditional power generation wind energy requires a small amount of land and can be integrated with existing rural agricultural activities and farming. Wind energy projects also present low operating costs and short construction lead times mean it can provide low cost, clean energy quicker and more conveniently than traditional power plants.

There is much press on the supposed adverse health effects caused by the presence of Wind Farms. It should also be realised that the presence of Wind Farms internationally has been present for over several decades. During this time no health side effects have been found.

Wind energy benefits society, in both local and national capacities. Wind Energy enables an effective way to capture a free fuel source, the wind and convert this to electricity generation. Wind energy in its purest form is renewable. Because it is a clean energy source, wind energy reduces costs associated with air pollution including both healthcare and environmental costs. Wind Energy also incorporates

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low operating costs and short construction lead times which results in providing lower cost, cleaner energy quicker and more conveniently than traditional power plants.

Noske Wind Energy Logistics believes in incorporating constant innovation across all its business practices. As such it has aligned its focus on the specialised wind energy sector. By passing the Renewable Energy Target RET legislation Australia has positioned itself as a world leader in addressing renewable energy sources and working towards reducing global carbon emissions. In order for Australia to achieve this innovative target it must ensure that legislation and policy allow wind farm development to happen in an uninhibited environment.

Wind Farms have the ability to go beyond just the supply of clean energy, they can have positive impact on the surrounding communities and local economy. The flow on effects of Wind Farm feasibility, construction and operation is extensive. This includes stimulation in a variety of other areas including concreting, earthmoving, tradespeople, fencing and transport. Wind Farm projects see the creation of temporary employment during the construction phase of the development; and a select number of permanent jobs during the lifetime of the wind farm.

Additional community benefits have been seen in regions who have been part of a Wind Farm project. Many Wind Farms incorporate various community groups and projects as part of the broader project. This can include development of public parklands and other shared community assets.

Noske Wind Energy Logistics' involvement to date within the Wind Energy sector has included extensive investment and development of specialised transport equipment and methods. This includes a specialised fleet of over 30 trailers and associated equipment, 10 dedicated prime movers, 7 pilot vehicles and specific wind turbine component storage facilities. If Government does not provide the needed support and backing for these projects, we run the risk of not being able to continue to operate our Wind Energy Logistics Division and the subsequent loss of job opportunities and skill sets that are associated with this.

In today's society, with the skyrocketing price of oil, the uncertainty of its continued supply due to world conflict, and the global trend towards moving away from the burning of fossil fuels which is thought to contribute to global warming, wind power certainly seems like the most viable form of clean, renewable, alternative energy. Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are amongst the highest in the world. Wind Farms assist with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by displacing generation from the traditional fossil fuel power sources. Wind Energy reduces and can perhaps eventually eliminate the world's dependence on energy generation that causes pollution.

Noske Wind Energy Logistics have seen the direct benefits to rural communities based on Wind Farm project activity this in summary includes:

- ▶ Establishment of Wind Energy Office & Operations located in Portland (creating the mentioned investments and jobs).
- ▶ Wind Turbine imports always through 'outports' – local rural ports as there is less traffic restrictions and more feasible port infrastructure.

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- ▶ Noske Wind Energy Logistics had several vessel discharges in these outports, i.e. Portland, Port Pirie, wind farms always built in rural areas creating jobs/investments for Ports, Crane Companies, Accommodation and Travel related industry, trucking companies, pilot and escort services and construction companies.

The only core disadvantage that Noske Wind Energy Logistics sees in relation to stalling and delaying Wind Energy Projects within Australia is creating an environment where Australia is at risk of continuing to not meet its renewable energy targets as set by the Australian Government. Wind energy is growing fast. It has been one of the world's fastest growing renewable energy sources.

The industry requires stability and commitment from Government and associated legislation and policy in relation to the Wind Energy sector. Investors need the confidence in order to continue to fund and be involved with Wind Farm projects within Australia. Without this, there is the real risk of sending further investment and development of these projects out of the country.

Should you have any further questions or require more information regarding Noske Wind Energy Logistics and their involvement within the wind energy industry please do not hesitate to contact Ben Cameron

Kind Regards,

Ben Cameron

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