

Submission:

The Hepburn wind project and any others to follow are an excellent demonstration of the will of a relatively small number of investors to make a difference in the energy mix in our country. Contrary to the beliefs of many, I believe wind turbines are beautiful to look at, they are the most cost effective source of renewable energy at the moment and will be an important part of the future energy needs of the country.

At this time we need to be making changes to our lifestyles urgently. Energy use is central to that change. Not only do we need to reduce our CO2 emissions, we need to be taking steps to reverse the flow of CO2 back into the earth. My understanding is that the best option we have to do this is to convert quickly to 100% renewable energy (the technology exists) and to use biochar to return a stable form of carbon to the soil.

Any decision by your senate committee to increase barriers to the uptake of renewable energy sources ought to be viewed as grossly irresponsible and I urge you to listen to the views of eminent scientists who are warning of severe threats to society if action is not taken on climate change quickly.