

Dear Senators,

Regarding the Wind Farm inquiry I wish to make the following points:

1. Australia has many areas where it is windy enough to produce wind powered electricity, and as it is a renewable energy source which benefits the whole community, and even globally by greatly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is highly important to have wind farms in the mix of renewable energy sources.
2. The suffering and losses from extreme weather events needs to be considered in this context too. We must change from emitting GHGs from polluting coal-fired power stations. Weather and climate scientists have reported that the extreme weather events of recent times have been exacerbated by the rising temperatures of the oceans, then all people need to accept that changes must be made. The financial costs to those adversely affected by the extreme weather events is devastating, and because of the scale of such effects, it affects all Australians.
3. I love the Australian landscape, but unlike some others, I do not find seeing wind turbines an ugly sight at all. I have been up close to some huge wind turbines in the beautiful Atherton tableland, and we could talk easily in close proximity. This was about 10 years ago, so newer turbines should be even quieter. Cattle grazed beneath these turbines, very calmly, and we spoke of the double benefit for the farmer, who would be paid to use the farmland for the wind generation, while continuing to graze livestock. We thought this was a great benefit to farmers who might be struggling financially.
4. I have also seen many wind farms in beautiful Austria recently, and the Austrians were very proud of the amount of renewable energy they produced, and without going nuclear. I believe governments have an obligation to promote the benefits of all renewable electricity sources, and educate people into being pleased with the progress towards reducing our very large carbon dioxide emissions.

Sincerely,
Wendy Rainbird.