

Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir/ Madam,

### **The Importance of Developing Alternative Energy Sources Including Rural Wind Farms**

I am a Science teacher in an Australian high school, unfortunately I don't have a lot of time spare to put into a submission in support of further developing wind farms. However, I recognise the importance of resisting the diminishing arguments of climate change skeptics and other interest groups who ignore the changing global energy situation and request that you do the same. **I request that you do not obstruct efforts to develop the wind farm industry in Australia and that you support it for the future good of our nation.**

From a personal perspective, It is interesting to flick through science textbooks printed as early as the 1960's. Each time the topic of energy and fossil fuels is addressed in science textbooks it is clearly stated that **these are finite resources and will run out in the not so distant future**. Particularly when we live in a continually growing economy that is fuelled by fossil energy. We have known that our energy sources will need to change for a long time now!

I have completed a walking trail through Spain called the Santiago De Compostella. I walked for 32 days across the Spanish countryside, encountering mountain range after mountain range studded with wind turbines for Spanish electricity generation. I was struck by both the futuristic appearance of these and yet the earthy utilisation of the elements to power modern technologies. They were peaceful from a distance, familiarly rhythmic once within hearing distance and as I reflected on the utilisation of wind turbines I came to the conclusion that "not in my back yard" arguments against them reflect the cognitive dissonance of most electricity users.

If you were to propose putting a coal fired power plant in the "back yard" of a protester instead and they would likely change their tune. **Our generation likes electricity but we are not so willing to bear it's costs, this is cognitive dissonance and must be addressed if we home to realise a sustainable future.**

Much more could be said in support for wind energy, Global warming and reducing destruction through mining and pollution being two. The precautionary principle can be applied in many contexts which I am certain would cumulatively favor the development of wind energy over the alternatives.

I have included a list of other information I have accessed through a local climate action group which is relevant, though not my own research:

- Renewables (and wind in particular) are an essential part of our response to climate change, and the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would make the

development of this industry more difficult  
or onerous

- Current research and scientific investigations have found that there are no adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms
- Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds
- Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms reduce property values
- The employment benefits are substantial and widely spread across regions, and provide considerable opportunities for individuals and communities where they are located, including the land owners who host turbines
- Wind represents a clean, safe source of power that will never run out. In making the transition away from polluting coal, wind will help clean up our air, water systems and improve the health of our communities
- Evidence from overseas is now showing that the installation of wind is actually dropping wholesale power prices. We need to invest further in wind power to manage rising energy prices
- Wind farms are widely supported in the community (*I have not personally had a discussion on this topic where individuals concerns were not able to be turned around once the context for the wind power argument was clearly presented within the broader context*)

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my concerns,

Sincerely

Craig Gaymer