

Submission to Senate Committee Inquiry into

I write in support of rural wind farms.

I am worried about the health of our planet; it is a dynamic system that changes due to natural and man-made causes. We may never fully understand our planet or our climate but I do not want mankind to contribute to its reckless decline. We do know that human life and society is fragile and can only cope with a friendly climate. Can we run the risk of fouling it up?

We must have industrially generated energy for mankind to go on. We must expect that in the future everyone in the world will demand access to a fair share of energy. It is a frightening prospect to think how much energy is needed to meet that demand.

So what can be done to keep the planet liveable?

Nuclear, clean coal and renewable energy are all essential considerations in our response to climate change. We must adopt the best available and appropriate technologies to reduce the greenhouse gas contagion.

Wind power is a very good solution; is it is the most commercially and technically viable form of renewable energy.

The Senate Committee must not be distracted by the noisy minority howling against any each and every wind farm. The Senate Committee should reject their clichés and ignore their myths.

The Senate Committee should listen to more reasoned arguments.

The recent National Health and Medical Research Council review (Wind Turbines and Health, A Rapid Review of the Evidence, July 2010) concluded that there is no evidence to prove wind farms can make people sick. The review concludes "There are no direct pathological effects from wind farms and that any potential impact on humans can be minimised by following existing planning guidelines"

Another reasonable voice is that of Professor Simon Chapman. In an article from ABC Ballarat Wind farms: a health hazard or hysteria? he sums up the situation.

University of Sydney School of Public Health professor, Simon Chapman says throughout history, new technologies have generated fear around health effects.

"I was really interested in whether or not wind turbines were the latest phenomenon in this kind of chain of new technologies which concern and raise anxiety amongst communities.

"So far I believe there has never been anywhere in the world a reported case of somebody who complains that their health is being affected by one of these turbines if they actually have one of those turbines on their own property," Mr Chapman says.

He says the people receiving large sums of money for having a turbine on their property, ranging from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per turbine, have not reported adverse health effects.

"In other words, maybe if people are given these sorts of payments mysteriously their symptoms, if any, go away which isn't really normally the way that we start understanding whether something causes disease or not."

Claims of ill-health as a result of wind farms have been heard in this region, including from people near turbines at Waubra and Cape Bridgewater, and near other wind farms around the state.

Professor Chapman says these things can become "contagious" and anxiety could be causing the somatic symptoms.

"Psychiatrists have a phenomenon for this which is called mass-hysteria and you know if people are feeling vulnerable, or that there's some sort of lack of justice involved; if you for example are a land owner and you don't have one on your land and your next door neighbour just a few hundred metres away... does have one on his or her land then you might get anxiety symptoms because you're not getting the money, you may be thinking that your land values are changing compared to your neighbours."

I would also like to highlight to the Senate Committee some the hypocrisy of the anti-wind campaigners particularly the wife and husband team of Nina Pierpont and Calvin Luther Martin. I draw you attention to Calvin Luther Martin public position on wind farms. His views can be found propagated amongst anti-wind group in the USA, for example

You will note these bitter anti-wind campaigners have no real respect for due process, science or other people.

In my opinion the Senate Committee should endorse and facilitate additional wind farms.