

The Sutherland Climate Action Network (SCAN), comprising over 300 residents strongly support the use of wind-generated power because it is currently the least expensive option for transitioning Australia into a clean-energy future. This is a future that other countries have leapt at. Over 19,000 wind turbines with a capacity of 25GW have already been installed in Germany, and China has committed to 100GW of wind power (twice the capacity of Australia's total electricity generation) by 2020. China's expansion into this industry is expected to reduce turbine costs by at least 50% in the next few years bringing wind power roughly in line with the cost of coal energy. When the costs of dealing with the impact of the pollution that coal plants emit are included, wind power becomes far cheaper and healthier.

Unlike coal mining which destroys productive agricultural areas, pollutes waterways and negatively impacts on human health and native flora and fauna, wind farms can co-exist with existing farmland and have been shown by the NHMRC in 2010 to have no pathological effects on the health of people living in close proximity as long as existing planning guidelines are followed.

Australia is currently the highest polluting nation per capita and an overwhelming majority, 93% of Australians (November 2010 survey by Galaxy research) recognise the need to curtail emissions by investing in wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy. SCAN conducted a survey in our local area and found 92% out of 126 people would like to see a plan for the implementation of 100% renewable energy. The University of Melbourne Energy Institute has recently released such a plan for Australia to convert to 100% renewable energy within 10 years <http://beyondzeroemissions.org/zero-carbon-australia-2020> of which wind energy constitutes 60%.

We urge the senate support the transition to 100% renewable energy by supporting the immediate and wide-scale construction of Australian wind farms.

Thank You,

Tassia Kolesnikow (Director of Sutherland Climate Action Network)
PhD Microbiology and Molecular Genetics