

To the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs,

Dear Senators,

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

My mother and I stopped at the Codrington Wind Farm in 2008 on a trip to Portland. A tour operator took us to stand below one of the many wind turbines that had been erected on her family's farm land. I found the turbine to be surprisingly quiet and I did not notice any vibrations caused by the turbine. The blades appeared to turn quite slowly but when we watched the shadow of the blade tips on the ground it was clear that the blades were turning quite fast in the moderate wind. I had no fears for my health during the time spent walking around the wind turbines, in fact it was quite an enjoyable experience being able to witness energy generation at such a close proximity. I have attached a photo of my mother and I on our visit to the windfarm.

I believe that harnessing the wind to create energy is an important part of reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions and tackling Climate Change. Wind farms should be supported so that we can make a transition away from the heavily polluting coal-fired energy towards renewable and low emission energy production.

I hope that the findings of your Inquiry recognise the importance of windfarms and as a result is able to make recommendations that lead to the expansion of the wind energy sector.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Jones
Brunswick West, Victoria