



AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION

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Cyril Cram Flotilla Commander

Patron *Mr. Geoff Handbury OA*

P.O.Box 1240 PORTLAND VIC 3305

To the Parliament of Australia

SENATE

Enquiry into Social and Economic impact of Rural Wind Farms

The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association Portland Flotilla wishes to put to you the following submission.

The Coast Guard as you may be aware is a Volunteer organisation and the costs associated with the running of our Flotilla and Vessel is very high, we need specialist Training and Safety equipment to enable us to give the service to the Portland area and in particular the waters of the Bass Strait in which many fishermen find themselves in trouble and require our services for Rescue.

The Wind Farms in the Portland environs have contributed to the Social and Economic well being of many organisations in this Area, and from the Coast Guards situation we have had a very good partnership with them for some years (in particular Pacific Hydro). Our partnership has been financial, this been sourced through Grants and from these Grants we have been able to purchase Safety equipment, Training equipment and certainly Train our members for their most important tasks. We have also joined with them as a group with others in revegetation some our Coastal areas which have suffered some forms of erosion over the years.

Through our partnership with them we are able to lecture and demonstrate practical Safety at Sea to all (Adults and Children) at such gatherings as the Upwelling Festival and open days on our vessel, we are also aware that many other organisations are receiving similar economical help within this area and beyond.

I thank the Senate for giving us the opportunity to put this submission to you.

Yours Aye,

Original Signed By

Cyril Mervyn Cram Flotilla Commander VF17 (Victorian Flotilla 17)

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association

9/02/2011