

I wish to make a submission to the Federal Senate Inquiry into the social and economic effects of wind farms.

I live in the country/urban fringe town of Riddells Creek. Our local government Macedon Ranges Shire plans develop Riddells Creek to double our population by 2030. I think that the first new infrastructure should be a 3 turbine wind farm to power the proposed development. I think that if wind farms are sited first in any new development it would prevent a lot of argument.

I do not believe that we should make substantial changes to existing guidelines simply to appease the vocal but relatively small number of opponents to wind energy, as appears to be the case in Victoria where the new Liberal Coalition government has announced a very restrictive wind energy policy. A well supported community 2 turbine wind installation at Woodend was full steam ahead until the coalition got into government. The Liberals signed up to a 20 per cent reduction by 2020 but they have no indicated how they will achieve it.

I went to an evening billed as an "information night" about a proposed wind farm in the Sunbury area but it was all misinformation from the so-called Landscape Guardians who sought to use fear to gather support and to encourage people to vote conservative. I urge you not to give in to unsubstantiated rumour and outright fear campaigns about wind energy.

Renewables (and wind in particular) are an essential part of our response to climate change, and the Senate Committee should help to change planning laws so that wind farms can go ahead.

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 farms are widely supported in the community

With appropriate controls and robust planning processes, wind has proven itself to be an excellent form of energy as part of a broader mix, while driving investment and employment in rural areas and acting to reduce our greenhouse emissions. Hepburn Wind is a successful community organized wind project and has already created three direct jobs, and spent more than \$2m in regional Victoria. Hepburn Wind is expected to cost \$13m and generate more electricity each year than is used by the houses in Daylesford and much of the surrounding area. At the equivalent of less than \$6000/house, no other renewable energy solution comes close. Wind power is the energy source of now and the future,

Yours Sincerely,

Lyn Hovey