

Committee Chairman
Impacts of Rural Wind Farms Inquiry

This submission is in support of the Clean Energy Councils Submission to the above senate inquiry.

The key "green arguments" ought be well understood, so this submission will not cover those issues that will stand on their own.

We wish to comment briefly on the flow on from having highly trained technical people being based in regional centres to maintain and operate the wind farm infrastructure.

Most small regional communities like Merredin, for example have a dearth of such occupations, and any opportunity to have that position improved is very important to the long-term sustainability of the regions.

Such groups of skilled well paid people by their existence, draw the next level of service providers, further enhancing the potential of the region to attract and hold further investment.

As agriculture continues to rationalise both its production and service base, other industry needs to be encouraged to fill the growing void of technical skills that are required to form the backbone of any community.

Failure to continue the process of fostering industry, such as the wind farms under question, will eventually mean the demise of the vibrant contributing community and leave instead the prospect of moribund and one dimensional community.

Communities that cost the tax payer much more to maintain.

We at Karni Engineering are small players in the wind energy business, providing services to onsite contractors.

We are however, acutely aware of the massive positive effect the construction of the wind farm and coincidentally, the cranking up of operations at Catalpa Resources, Edna May Operations at Westonia is having on the local community of Merredin.

The agricultural sector is not enjoying buoyant times and local business without the flow on effects of the above would be experiencing even tougher times.

In brief, we wish to see every endeavour being made to change the dynamics of regional industry to create diversity and increase the prospect of creating skilled occupations with prospects, without this dynamic regional Australia will quickly become a backwater that craves investment and most of all, talented people who are required to create the backbone for the regions and in the longer term Australia's overall wellbeing,

Regards

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For Karni Engineering