

Submission:

I am writing about the Senate Inquiry concerning rural wind farms.

I am a supporter of rural wind farms, and I am an investor in Hepburn Wind, which will be generating electricity near to where I live, without massive greenhouse gas emissions. Hepburn Wind is spending money (including my money) in my region (Central Victoria) and providing jobs in my region.

I also note that most of the letters received by Hepburn Shire about Hepburn Wind's project were in favour of the wind farm.

It concerns me that the terms of reference make no mention of the costs and benefits of the alternatives to wind farms. In my state of Victoria the dominant method of generating electricity is burning brown coal, an intensive generator of greenhouse gases. To make things worse, the electricity is then sent over long distances with attendant transmission losses.

I submit that the weight of scientific evidence on greenhouse gases and climate change is a "relevant matter", as climate change is arguably already affecting health and food production in Central Victoria, and as the recent climate change review report by Professor Garnaut indicates, the problem will get worse.

I ask that the Inquiry consider the benefits of wind farms in reducing Australia's very high per capita level of greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr Gordon Monro