

## Submission to Federal Parliament's Senate Community Affairs Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback for the review, we can only comment on our experience living close to Hallett and near the Hallett Wind Farm area.

- Tony and I live approx 6kms north of Hallett on the Barrier Highway. We have lived here for 17years together but Tony is 5<sup>th</sup> generation to the area.
- Wind Farm activity has been in our area for many years with the commencement of the Hallett Wind Farm project. It is possibly 10years since community consultation first commenced and Hallett 1 was launched 3years ago.
- We do not have any turbines on our property
- We personally embrace every aspect of wind energy, they are attractive, they provide green energy, and the benefits to the community are vast. The property owners that have turbines are less reliant on primary production for income therefore can afford to reduce stock numbers and improve soil integrity.
- If we had turbines on our property we would be able to manage our property better, reduce stock rates, modify crop rotations, and facilitate better education for our children and the possibility of Uni etc. We would be able to drought proof by extra investment both on and off farm.
- The benefit to the wider community has been huge, local business would not have sustained with out the income generated by the workers involved in the wind farm. AGL has put in place a grant fund for local organisations to apply for funding. This funding eases the burden of fundraising. I know from my own experience that in small communities particularly that have been drought affected there just isn't the funds. An example is our local swimming pool in Hallett. With such a small population we cannot fund raise enough to meet the cost of the pool yet with out the pool in very hot conditions people need to travel up to 40kms to access another pool. Without AGL funding I believe this asset would have been lost. Other funding has gone toward things like computers for the history room, uniforms and equipment for the bowling club, filming a documentary about the history of Mt Bryan, a lawnmower for the community gardens, these provide sustainability in our community. AGL have been very proactive in our community attending social functions, sponsoring events such as Jazz in the Monster Mine and the Bush to Burra Cattle Drive and committing to being part of the community not just a large organisation wanting to make money.
- Through the very extensive research AGL compile prior to any wind farm development we have become aware of plant species etc that are isolated to our area. This has given us a chance to isolate these areas and set up a monitoring program to protect them for the future.
- We have not seen any evidence of a change in property values since the existence of the wind farm
- There are almost no other employment opportunities in our local area, those involved in the wind farm build or maintenance are getting a real opportunity closer to home.
- I fully support wind energy in our area and feel very proud that we are on the map as leaders in wind energy for SA.

Kathi Sumner