

From:
To: [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2012
Date: Friday, 26 October 2012 5:47:28 PM

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2012.

I support the proposed amendments to this Bill because I will be close to a proposed wind development if it is built.

Our communities, Traawool and Whiteheads Creek lie within 10 kilometres of Seymour, Victoria, a township of about 12,000. It's 100 kms north of Melbourne and will be in a future growth corridor given the existing transport links of the Hume Hwy and the rail system. It would seem reasonable for this Committee to support the Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2012 for the following reasons.

1. There has already been a Senate enquiry into the effects of wind energy farms and a number of recommendations made. Of this you are no doubt aware. Irrespective of the pros and cons, the Senate Committee did not conclude that wind farms were safe. There was no positive recommendation or endorsement from Government. This does not inspire confidence from the electorate.
2. I doubt anyone is against renewable energy, we in this area are certainly not. But is there are particular reason why they should be located in areas where people so strongly object to them on the grounds of potential ill health, visual impact and the potential effect on the environment.
3. In a country the size of Australia, is there any sensible reason why, in our case, the Cherry Tree Range proposal of some 15 - 30, 200 metres tall turbines needs to be sited on top of a mountain range within seven kilometres of a growing regional town.
4. From the available literature, it seems that wind energy is not all that efficient. That's not to say we should not have it, but it would be more reasonable to optimise efficient renewable energy options that cause limited impact (gas fired turbines) rather than continue to push for an option that is yet to be fully researched and is increasingly raising the ire of the people you are expected to represent. I look forward to the National Health and Medical Research Council's second report due later this year or early next.
5. I am concerned that there does not appear to be an national strategic framework for this renewable energy source. The Federal Government allows individual State and Territory jurisdictions to manage the adoption of planning schemes for the implementation of these developments. In Victoria's case, this role has been handed on to the local councils after ensuring that significant areas (the Great Ocean Road, Wilson's Promontory etc) were excluded from wind farm developments (including the current Premier's family rural land holdings in the McHarg Ranges). I understand that Lady Marigold Southey, our current Premier's cousin is a strong opponent of them.
6. I am concerned also, having become involved in the opposition of one of these developments, of the misinformation and subjective language used by developers to convince those not directly effected that this form of energy is low impact. Anyone who is not directly effected would probably believe from the evidence provided by developers that those who oppose wind farms are seriously misguided and parochial.
7. In conclusion, I support the the Bill stating that all information should be made available via the internet.

Thank you for your time.

Cameron Rowe