

I would like to submit to the abovementioned inquiry comments about the significant efforts made by Pacific Hydro to support community based clubs and organisations via their Sustainable Communities Fund. The Port Fairy Cycling Club Inc. has been extremely fortunate to have been successful in receiving several grants from the fund in order to conduct the Victorian 100 Kilometre Cycling Championships. The substantial grants have allowed us to cover the costs involved in hosting an elite cycling event, which was in jeopardy of being discontinued without the support of the Pacific Hydro Sustainable Communities funding.

Representatives from Pacific Hydro have also contributed their time to develop additional fund-raising events for the cycling club. Having been the club member who has prepared the grant applications and corresponded with Pacific Hydro I can attest to the company's genuine interest in building strong local communities. Unlike many organisations who offer grants as a public relations exercise, Pacific Hydro ensure that grant recipients are working towards a position of financial self sustainability. Their commitment is so much more than a cheque handover.

Being the first generator of wind energy in the South West of Victoria, I am hopeful that the Pacific Hydro model of community assistance will become a template for other wind farm operators as I cannot imagine that their intent to assist the communities surrounding their operations could possibly be surpassed. It is not about the amount of money that is distributed (which in the case of Pacific Hydro is substantial) it's about the fact that the employees work with the community groups throughout the life of the project to ensure positive community outcomes. I trust that the senate inquiry will take into account the magnificent contribution Pacific Hydro has made so far and the commitment they have to continuing to partner local community groups.

David Tozer