

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an engineer in the wind Industry, I am deeply concerned about misinformation being spread about wind farms, and their impact on people and the environment.

While this inquiry asks for people's opinion on various impacts of wind farms, I hope that any recommendations resulting from the inquiry are based primarily on well verified information, rather than rumour or unqualified opinion.

The Clean Energy Council has links to various studies looking at the health impacts of living next to turbines.

<http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/technologies/wind/turbinefactsheets>

Amongst the reports is the NHMRC report which concludes that "there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects".

Australia already has some of the toughest regulations in the world regarding turbine placement in relation to people's homes. We should not be proposing even tougher regulations on the industry unless there are sound scientific reasons for doing so. Nor should we be placing tougher regulations than those that apply to other forms of energy generation or development. Setting a large and arbitrary turbine buffer around houses can severely impact the economic viability of wind farms. Given that wind energy is currently our most economical renewable energy resource, and represents a key solution to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from energy production, we should not be leading the world in applying unnecessary and arbitrarily high hurdles for wind farm developments to pass. Not only would such actions endanger a rapidly growing local wind energy industry, but they would also make it even harder and more costly to achieve the 20% renewable energy target by 2020, or to meet any greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Thank you,

Dr David Osmond

Senior Wind Engineer

Windlab