

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of Wattle Range Council I make the following submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the social and economic impact of rural windfarms -

> There are 4 operating windfarms (Lake Bonney Stage 1; Canunda; Lake Bonney Stage 2 and Lake Bonney Stage 3) and during the planning phase for these projects there was considerable community support for the windfarm.

> Council has received no complaints or advice of any adverse health effects suffered by people living in close proximity to the windfarms operating in the Council region. Council is aware of the current concerns being expressed by segments of the community about the potential health impacts on people living in close proximity to windfarms but is not aware of any substantiated evidence supporting this position.

> Council has received no complaints or advice of concerns about excessive noise and vibrations being emitted from the windfarms operating in the Council region impacting on residences in close proximity to the windfarms.

> The windfarms constructed in our Council region have provided significant employment opportunities during the construction phase and some ongoing employment to operate and maintain the windfarm. This employment provided flow-on economic activity to local businesses, especially during the construction phase.

> The impact on property values has not been significant, however there has been flow-on increases to farm incomes due to the lease/rental arrangements between landowners and the windfarm operator. This has been welcomed income in times when farm incomes have been depressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Inquiry.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely

FN (Frank) Brennan  
Chief Executive Officer  
WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL