

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee re the Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

I write to fully support the development of wind energy and the necessary building of wind farms to provide that energy.

Wind is not finite and can never be eradicated but instead it is imperative that we harness it and utilise it.

Our district of Crookwell in the Southern Tablelands of NSW is recognised as one of the windiest areas in the state. I wish to make the following points in support of the further development of wind farms

NOISE. The property next door to ours has had the Crookwell 1 Windfarm on it for many years with one of the towers about 200 m from our boundary. When standing on our boundary the noise of the wind tower is very slight - just a whooshing noise which could not be considered offensive in any way.

LAND VALUES. I believe that land values would increase due to the income generated and the fact that that income is regular and guaranteed. But there would be some potential buyers not interested and therefore the market for potential buyers could be smaller.

JOBS. Jobs, many local, would be created in the erection of a wind farm and in the continuing servicing of the wind towers and the maintenance of the on-farm access roads.

INCOME. Farm income is not only boosted by wind farm payments but that income is a regular and known figure totally unrelated to the vagaries of seasons and markets. The value of an assured and regular income for farmers would be of inestimable assistance in the running of the property.

ADVANTAGES TO RURAL TOWNS. The income to farmers is used locally thus boosting their businesses and helping to maintain the viability of small struggling rural towns. The wind farm companies are also extremely generous in their support of municipal costs and activities. Job opportunities.

THE VOCAL ANTI WIND ENERGY GROUPS. It is unfortunate that those against wind farms are far more vocal than those in favour. It is also a known fact that very many of their so called facts are not true.

I believe that wind farms should go ahead for the benefit of Australia, the rural industry and the welfare of country towns and their farmers.

I fully and wholeheartedly support the use of wind energy and the development of wind farms.

Mary Prell