

11 February 2011



ABN 780 779 241 20

Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: SENATE INQUIRY INTO
THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS**

We offer the following information in support of the continued development for Wind Farms for the purpose of generation of 'green' energy throughout all rural areas.

CATCON is a leading civil engineering contracting organisation based in Adelaide, South Australia. Consistently ranked in the Top100 SA Company Index, CATCON is a professional, innovative, market focused organisation, operating as a quality Civil Engineering constructor and service provider. Wind Farm construction currently accounts for fifty percent of the company turnover.

Civil construction activities associated with wind farms Australia wide, currently accounts for approximately 50% of the company's annual turnover with current projections indicating that this percentage will increase to 65% given the required renewable energy targets required by 2020.

Criteria Case Study - typical Wind Farm construction

Lake Bonney Wind Farm (Stage 2) - Mount Gambier SA

We would like to present an example of how the civil construction of a major wind farm project can be very influential, on a community, in both the short- and long-term.

We have, therefore, used the Lake Bonney Wind Farm (Stage 2) construction to address your criteria and show how it has directly benefited local communities and their living environment on many levels. This analysis is typical of all windfarms constructed in rural areas.

Urban or regional development

- Financial input to local industry
- Civil construction career experience for 40 local employees
- Specialist training provided to said local employees ie load slinging courses, plant operating tickets, first aid training etc.

Urban or regional commerce

- Employed 40 local personnel on Lake Bonney Windfarm
- Returned \$9.5M to local industries in Mount Gambier region through patronage
- Machinery hired locally
- All concrete aggregates, fuel deliveries, earthmoving plant repairs, hardware items sourced locally
- Purchased locally as much as possible ie stationary to fence posts
- Over 48 CATCON personnel and visiting family members based locally, thereby contributing to the local economy for over a year through; house and car rentals, food, fuel and the patronage of social amenities
- Both local airlines used on a weekly basis for personnel flying home for weekends and RDOs

Urban or regional industry

- Awarded first contract to local design company; establishing a new civil engineering design division now employing 35 personnel full time
- CATCON awarded a start-up contract to fledgling concrete pumping company in Mount Gambier. The business now employs over 20 personnel and has been used by us on three additional projects
- Utilised local engineering works for all metalwork and machine repairs
- Sourced materials locally for construction
- Subcontracted work to 32 local companies during project
- Experience and specialist training on major civil construction project for 40 local personnel

Environmental conservation

- Designed and constructed all weather access routes for farmers and land-owners through site and marshy areas
- No quarry or borrow pit was excavated or patronised for this project
- Buried 40 kms of cabling underground, at additional cost to project, to reduce environmental and aesthetic impact

Provision of facilities for the benefit of Community

- Lake Bonney Wind Farm, when constructed, was the largest wind farm in the Southern Hemisphere. Containing 99 wind turbines generating over 265 MW of electricity per hour, this is a beneficial project for the region, SA and the environment
- Tourism access route established to facilitate large interest from tourists and locals. This also provides an additional point of interest between Mount Gambier and Beachport
- Provided excellent access tracks across the rough terrain of the wind farm for ease of access for fire-fighters over 11km of farmlands

- Participation by workforce in local sporting clubs during project led to company supporting two fundraising drives for improved community facilities
- Company purchased a property nearby and has committed to letting native vegetation return and to let it be utilised as camping location for employees

Yours faithfully

Tom Milenkovic
Estimating Manager