

## **Submission to Senate Enquiry re Federal Senate inquiry into the 'Social and economic impact of rural wind farms'**

I understand that the Senate has decided to hold an enquiry into rural wind farms. I would like to submit the following points to the enquiry:

1. I believe that climate change is happening and I am sure that very few people would deny that this is the case, particularly given the extreme climate events, floods here and overseas, cyclones, massive snow storms in Europe and so on.
2. I believe that climate change is most likely caused or at least exacerbated by human activity on the planet. HOWEVER, even if it is not human induced, WE DO NOT LIKE THE LIKELY OUTCOME so, given that we think we could do something to mitigate climate change, WHY NOT START DOING SOMETHING NOW?
3. If we just sit on our hands and say it will be OK, WHAT IF WE ARE WRONG? At least lets try to reduce the impact of climate change!

That's why my wife and I have invested \$10,000 of our own money into Hepburn Wind which is building a community wind farm and before that, \$19,000 of our own money into solar panels on our roof to generate electricity. We have put our money where our mouth is.

It seems to me that the opposition to wind farms is largely motivated by the NIMBY (not in my backyard) reaction. As far as I am aware, wind farms are in no way harmful to the local communities in which they are located:

- The [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC) recently concluded that "there is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects."
- [Research](#) by Adelaide consultancy Sonus has recently shown that low frequency noise levels at the beach and in the CBD are typically higher than near wind farms.
- [Recent polling](#) in regional NSW has shown that 85% support wind power with the majority supporting it in their communities.

Having seen wind farms both here and overseas, I find them actually beautiful. Having visited a few wind farms and slept very near a wind turbine, I have experienced no ill effects or discomfort whatsoever.

I firmly believe that we must do everything possible to foster the creation of as much renewable energy as is possible. Many overseas countries, notably China have taken big strides down that path whilst we in Australia are lagging far behind.

Please think and plan ahead for the benefit of our children and grandchildren so that we leave them with a viable world. Please govern for the long term rather than just short term political gain.

Regards

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