

Senate Standing Committee Environment and Communications

Inquiry into:

"Recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events".

Dear Committee Members

Please accept my submission in regards to the Senate Inquiry into "Recent Trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events."

The current extreme weather conditions are highlighting the vulnerability of communities in Australia's already harsh landscape. Added to this is the inappropriate siting of Wind Turbine developments throughout the country, which is growing at an alarming rate without taking into consideration the added risks to communities surrounding these wind turbine developments and the inability to fight fires within close proximity to turbine developments and the fact that each turbine is a potential incendiary device, with up to 800 litres of highly flammable gear box oil in the nacelle.

Since releasing the attached statement it has been brought to my attention by members of communities who have suffered devastating consequences in previous bush fires in areas which are now earmarked for wind turbine developments and the long and lengthy inquiries and insurance battles that went on after the bushfires. The questions I have been asked are in relation to the responsibility and who will insure properties around wind energy developments with the added risks and inability to fight any fire that breaks out.

I have attached The Australian Industrial Wind Turbine Awareness Groups', Media Release from Monday 14th January 2013 which highlights the very real issues facing communities around wind energy developments and the lack of policies in place to protect Australian citizens at added risk because of Industrial Wind Turbine developments.

Yours sincerely
Patina Schneider.