

Senate Community Affairs Committee

I support the building of wind farms in principle as a means of providing renewable energy.

I will address my comments to the five areas of the enquiry :

(a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;

1 The NHMRC reported recently that there is no published scientific evidence that links wind turbines with adverse health effects on people living nearby.

(b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms, which are in close proximity to people's homes;

1 I have now stood at the bottom of 8 turbines operating at normal speed and held normal conversations with friends. No difficulty was experienced.

2 From 100m away, hardly any noise was evident that was louder than an average wind.

3 The myth of wind noise arose from the very early lattice towers erected at Altmont, USA which created a lot of wind turbulence and noise. There are no lattice towers today.

4 The so called 'flicker' problem is not a problem - it is grasping at straws by diniers.

4 In my opinion there is no problem.

(c) The impact of rural wind farms on

property values,

1 I have no evidence of any effect on property values, up or down.

employment opportunities

1 Such evidence as I have seen has always been a positive effect upon employment.

2 The Hepburn Wind Farm at Leonards Hill, Daylesford, has already created 3 jobs and has spent more than \$2M in rural Victoria with more to follow.

farm income;

1 Farmers usually welcome the annual income and it has little or no effect upon grazing animals.

2

(d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms;

1 No comment.

(e) Any other relevant matters.

1 There is very little problem with the so-called 'bird strike'. Again, the high death rate among birds arose at Altemont where slow flying eagles nested in the lattice towers and found it hard to dodge the blades.

This problem no longer occurs. Far, far more birds are killed on the roads by vehicles.

2 The myths brought up by climate change deniers at public meetings usually have their foundation in the early designs (such as Altemont). The Danish government insisted that manufacturers must eliminate the detractions from their early designs and they are now producing superb turbines.

3 I have invested in wind turbines, not from the intention of making money but because I believe Australia cannot continue to mine and sell coal which will then contribute to atmospheric pollution and global warming, so we have no option but to support the development of renewable energies.

4 In my opinion (as an architect and industrial designer) wind turbines are very elegant and graceful in their movement, looking rather like an 'aerial ballet' when rotating in groups.

5 We should be very careful in locating wind farms. I would not like to see the country 'covered' in wind farms.

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