

Submission Rural wind Farms enquiry

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

The issue here is “close proximity”. No one can be expected to live within say two kilometres of an industrial scale wind farm. Beyond that distance, the health effects are unlikely to be any greater than those of high voltage transmission lines or other environmental effects such as road ways or aircraft. What limited evidence there is that wind farms have adverse effects is inconclusive and does not constitute any cause for alarm. The key planning issue is proximity.

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

Again, this is an issue that can easily be resolved by measuring seismic and acoustic effects of large (megawatt size) wind turbines. A two-kilometre radius beyond a functional wind farm tower under varying soil conditions and varying wind conditions respectively would be a minimal study.

(c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income;

If there is a perception of health effects, or noise or vibratory effects then such perceptions will filter into the wider community and may affect real estate property values. For farmers, there are known and positive financial benefits

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

Under all circumstances, “proximity” must have a proper definition based on sound scientific measurements.

(e) Any other relevant matters.

Nil.