

February 10 2011

To whom it may concern,

I wish to forward to your enquiry a submission in support of wind farms. Wind farms are essential in our future energy mix in Australia's important move towards one hundred percent renewable energy. This goal is crucial if we are to play our part in reducing the planet's carbon emissions.

We must support wind technology for the following reasons:

- The most obvious reason is because of the fact that they use clean renewable energy. If we are to reduce carbon emissions we must phase out energy sources which are pollutants, such as coal.
- Of all the renewable sources of energy, wind power is currently the cheapest. The technology is proven and is currently available. Unlike other alternate forms of energy, wind technology is currently used to successfully generate power both nationally and internationally, and is ready for deployment on a large scale.
- Wind farms have the capacity to provide local jobs in their construction and operation. Mark Deisendorf, Deputy Director of the institute of Environmental Studies at the University of New South Wales estimates that wind power provides 2-3 times the number of job years per kilowatt hours compared to coal power, including mining coal. (Deisendorf, Climate Action, p.52.) Many of these jobs will be in regional Australia, thus providing a financial boost to often financially stressed rural communities.
- Wind farms also have the not insubstantial benefit of providing an extra income for rural landholders who agree to have wind turbines on their properties. This is possible because wind turbines can coexist with other rural land uses.
- The environmental impacts of wind farms are minimal. They have a smaller footprint than other energy generators such as coal or gas plants. If appropriately located collisions with bats and birds are rare. They cause much less damage to wildlife than habitat destruction, land clearing, cats, foxes, buildings, cars, power lines, and climate change.
- The claims that there are adverse health effects associated with the proximity to wind farms have not been substantiated. To date, according to the World Health Organization, there is no published research linking wind turbines to adverse health effects.

Fossil fuel derived energy is responsible for forty percent of our greenhouse emissions. Australia is per capita the second highest polluter in the world. Wind power is a clean renewable source of energy which is available to us to reduce our emissions and meet our renewable energy targets. Let's use it.

Nick King
Chairperson, Orange Climate Action Now (OCAN).