

From: **David Bruce King**

Submission:

I write in support of rural wind farms.

As an academic medical practitioner teaching and working in the area of clinical epidemiology I have investigate the evidence for and against many public health interventions, eg. folate, iodine, thiamine etc fortification of foods; fluoride supplementation of water supplies, electromagnetic radiation and cancers etc. I have spent a few hours reviewing the evidence suggesting health risk from wind farms, and most of the evidence is circumstantial and of poor methodology.

If our increasing needs for energy are not sourced from alternative energy, then it is likely that Australia will need to build more coal-fired power plants. Yet coal mining and burning has considerable health and environmental risks. Let me ask the members of the senate committee – taking all likely risks and aesthetic considerations into account, would they prefer to live next to a wind turbine or an open-cut coal mine or coal-fired power station?

Food insecurity is an emerging concern amongst those who have carefully considered the evidence. Coal mining, particularly in the Darling Downs and Hunter Valley, is consuming some of our best and most productive farming land. Wind turbines, on the other hand, cause virtually no loss of farming land.

If we want to keep a growing economy and a growing population, then more of our landscape will unavoidably be impacted by the demands for housing and energy. Wind energy appears to be one of the cheapest and safest means to met these needs with only minimal impact on our environment and sense of well-being.

It is time for some rationale decision making rather than policy driven by self interest or “not in my back yard” reactions.