

Thank you for accepting my submission.

I am writing to voice my support in favour of wind farms in Australia.

These main points, to which I agree, come from Cam Walker at Friends of the Earth.

Other information comes from "The Weather Makers", by Tim Flannery.

If you haven't already, please read chapter 29, (p.267-271)..."Bright as Sunlight, Light as Wind".

- Renewables (and wind in particular) are an essential part of our response to climate change, and the Senate Committee should not propose provisions that would make the development of this industry more difficult or onerous.

Flannery (p268), and researchers from Princeton University agree that the scare campaign from the oil and coal industries suggesting that changing to cleaner energy sources is all too hard, is just plain wrong. Some British local councils have cut emissions by 70% while experiencing economic GROWTH! And Denmark supplies 21% of the countries electricity with wind power.

- Current research and scientific investigations have found that there are no adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms.

The mind-body relationship is intense. People need only perceive a threat for their body to respond. The longer the threat lingers (perceived or real) the more physical damage occurs. I work with people and their stress levels everyday. Long term stress entrenches itself in the musculoskeletal system, and if unattended, it will travel. It seems people who live near wind farms have become ill from worry; from anticipating ill health, not actually from the wind farms themselves. You could see how this could happen with all the unfounded, erroneous bad press given to wind farms.

- Research conducted on modern wind turbines has shown that the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound are within accepted thresholds.

Standing under a wind turbine people can communicate without raising their voices and newer models are quieter (Flannery, p.268).

- Studies have found no statistical evidence that wind farms reduce property values.

Wind farms are now operating in the U.S.A., Britain and Europe. These studies refer to all of of these locations, including Australia too!

- The employment benefits are substantial and widely spread across regions, and provide considerable opportunities for individuals and communities where they are located, including the land owners who host turbines.

Seems that the flow on effect from employment at the wind farms is only a bonus to local communities.

- Wind farms are widely supported in the community.

I have a cousin who lives in Woodford, outside of Warnambool, who is saving for a smaller version wind turbine to help power their home and home-office based business, which employs five people. Employee and family responses, from all generations were well positive.

As far as aesthetics go,recently I sailed around Tasmania. After taking a big left to head south from the North east corner, the wind farms there look like something from a sci-fi movie...standing tall and proud, silent and clean....much better than a dirty big hole in the ground and huge chimneys spewing more pollution into our atmosphere.

Flannery (p270) goes on to mention that more cats kill birds in the USA than wind farms, and

how many bird species will disappear with escalating effects of man-made climate change.

And as he politely suggests, these last two pints shouldn't be important in making positive energy policy for the future of our planet.

Please continue to support wind farms (and other renewable energy sources).

OUR planet depends on this.

with kind regards, and great hope for a clean green future for us all,

from

Vivian Parish.