

9th February 2011

Department of the Senate
Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Wind farm senate inquiry

I have worked at Keppel Prince Engineering in Portland for 6 years in wind tower manufacturing as a boiler maker. I completed an adult apprenticeship at Keppel Prince after stints in a number of other fields. This extra training is an opportunity that may not have been available to me without the wind industry in our area.

I have seen many benefits from having wind farms in Portland, including the many people employed both directly and indirectly. Jobs I've seen created as a result of this industry include in transport, electrical and many other fields. My brother is also employed at Keppel Prince.

The wind farms attract tourists to our area. When I was travelling around Australia a number of years ago people as far away as Northern Queensland were aware that the south west of Victoria hosted wind farms and expressed interest in coming to have a look at them.

In my experience most people locally are happy with the wind farms. People think that if it's creating jobs and clean, green energy it's a lot better than burning coal. The only negative comments I have heard have been about health effects but my friends and I believe these complaints seem to come from those who haven't got turbines on their land and are jealous of those who are getting financial benefits.

Sincerely,

Tim Otter