

7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re Inquiry into the Social and economic impact of rural wind farms**

We would like to make the following comments in support of wind farms in our area:

- we support the presence of wind farms in our area as an alternative energy source to coal-fired electricity;
- wind farms exist in our area and we find them soothing and calming.
- we do acknowledge that on occasions birds do fly into the large blades, but the incidence of this would be much less than motor vehicle and power line accidents;
- the turbines are less intrusive than the huge power lines that cross the state to power Alcoa in Portland;
- from the roadway (about 0.5kms from the turbines) there is no audible noise;
- the wind farm industry contributes significantly to our local economies particularly during the construction stage but also throughout the life of the project.

Yours faithfully,

Robert & Margaret Whitehead