

7 February 2011

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the upcoming Senate Enquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms, I wish to express my support of wind farm development in Australia as an engineer who is currently working in the wind industry.

At this point in time, wind power remains the most commercially viable way to decrease wasteful and dangerous human dependence on non renewable resources for the purpose of power generation. Ultimately, when used in conjunction with other renewable energy sources and energy storage technology, wind power can be a valuable component of a long term sustainable energy future with minimal carbon emissions.

Australia contains many areas with good wind resource that should not go to waste. In particular, the development of wind farms in Australia should not be stifled by arbitrary turbine-residency setback distance requirements that are not based on good science (like the ones being proposed by the Victorian government).

The science that exists today provides strong evidence that wind farms are highly unlikely to be detrimental to human health with regard to audible/inaudible noise or vibration. Furthermore, current Australian guidelines for wind farm development have been effective in ensuring that wind farms do not produce levels of audible noise that would be considered a nuisance to nearby residents. This is supported by many years of real world observations regarding wind farms and nearby communities. In general, a wind farm will have a positive effect on the community by providing many economic benefits, whilst having a minimal environmental footprint.

Thank you

Richard Moreton