

wind energy – generating serious power

Australia has

1345



A modern wind turbine is capable of powering up to

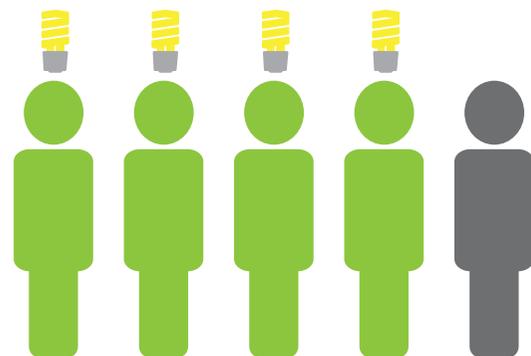
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Currently wind energy generates enough power for around **1 million households** or roughly 1 in 8 households in Australia



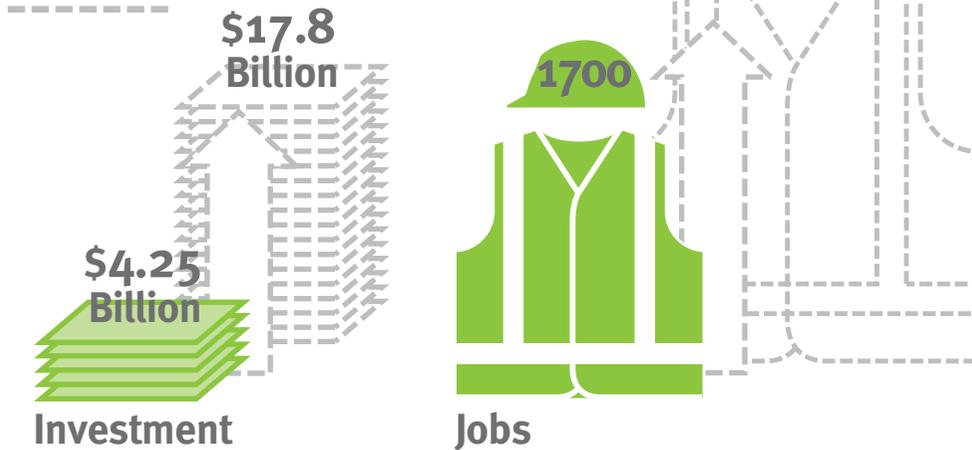
Nearly four out of five people surveyed across Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales support wind farms – including many people from regions containing wind farms.



Wind energy jobs and investment in Australia

Current

Potential



Clean energy update no.2: wind energy



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windenergy



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Investment and jobs

A recent study found a typical 50 megawatt wind farm (capable of powering up to 21,000 homes) is constructed by workers who spend up to \$1.2 million locally, and contributes up to \$80,000 annually to community projects. The study found such a wind farm creates up to 48 direct jobs during construction, and then employs around five ongoing permanent staff.

Further, it found wind farms generate significant extra funds for local suppliers, contractors, shopkeepers, community facilities and more, with up to seven extra ongoing jobs created locally as a flow-on effect of having a 50 megawatt wind farm nearby.

A total of \$4.25 billion has been invested in Australia as a result of wind power projects. Based on current planned projects, the potential for another \$17.8 billion investment exists.

Benefits for farmers

Wind farming can help farmers generate vital extra income, make better use of marginal farming land, and insure against market downturns. In some cases, this can mean the difference between staying on the land and having to sell up.

The lowest-cost way to meet Australia's Renewable Energy Target

Large-scale renewable energy like wind power is the lowest-cost way to meet Australia's target of sourcing 20 per cent of our energy from renewable sources by 2020. Contrary to some recent claims, wind and other large-scale renewable energy sources contribute only a tiny amount to the average power bill – just two per cent compared to the massive 40 per cent that goes towards upgrading the power network.

Strong community support

A recent survey by independent researcher QDos showed nearly 80 per cent of those surveyed across Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia (including regional areas containing wind farms) supported the development of wind farms.

Health

There are nearly 200,000 wind turbines across sites all over the world – many of them close to people's houses. More than a dozen peer-reviewed expert studies have been completed on wind farms and none has shown a direct link between them and ill health.

Back up generation

Energy created by wind turbines is just one of a range of energy types feeding into our power system to provide us with electricity. Demand and supply of energy fluctuates all the time and the energy network is designed to cope with this. It needs back-up power for a range of reasons including demand spikes and power station failure. No back-up power station has been built just to support wind.

Wind turbine noise

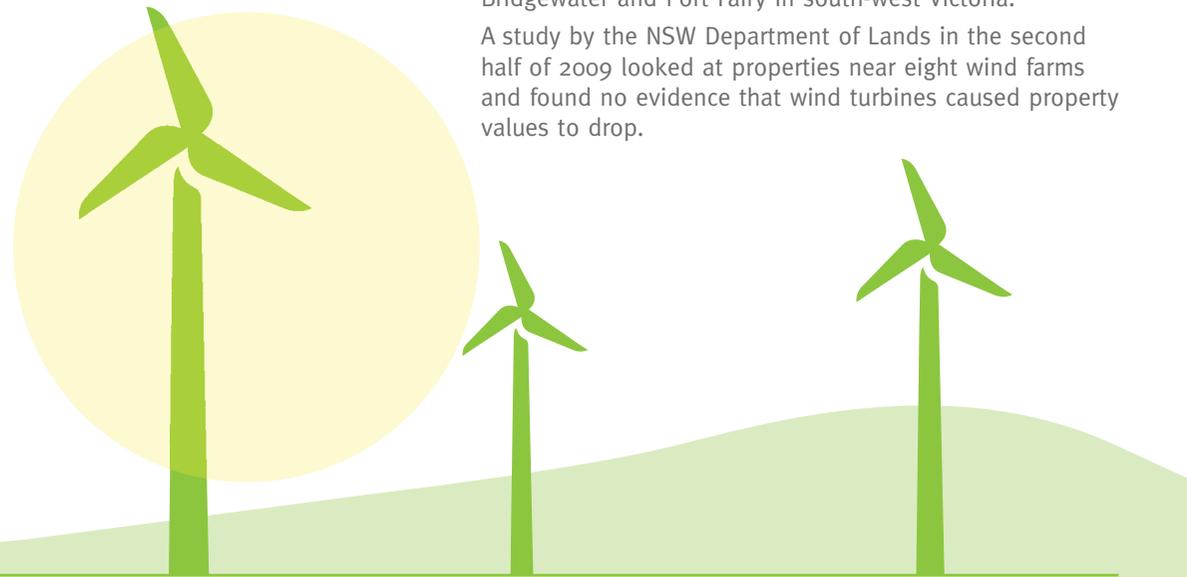
Australian wind farms face some of the toughest guidelines in the world in relation to their permissible noise levels.

A study by independent noise consultant Sonus shows that one of the biggest sources of infrasound is the ocean – yet there are no reports of the hundreds of thousands of coast-dwelling Australians suffering ill health from infrasound.

Real estate prices

Many locations near wind farms have seen property prices increase significantly over the last few years, such as Cape Bridgewater and Port Fairy in south-west Victoria.

A study by the NSW Department of Lands in the second half of 2009 looked at properties near eight wind farms and found no evidence that wind turbines caused property values to drop.



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