

**Media Release  
For immediate release  
June 11th, 2015**

## **PM is wrong: Wind power is one of the healthiest forms of energy**

WIND farms are one of the healthiest forms of energy the world has to offer and Australia's renewable energy policies should be based on these facts rather than fiction, the Climate Council said today.

The Climate Council has moved to confirm the science on wind farms after Prime Minister Tony Abbott raised concerns about the potential health impacts of wind farms while speaking to Alan Jones today.

Climate Council Councillor Professor Will Steffen said there was no consistent evidence that wind farms caused adverse health effects.

When compared to coal, wind power was the clear front-runner as one of the healthiest forms of energy, Professor Steffen said.

“Coal, the dominant energy source in Australia, is well known to emit toxic and carcinogenic substances which can cause severe health effects.

“The basis for Australia's renewable energy policies must be the best science available rather personal preference.

“If we are weighing up energy sources based on health, coal is one of the most dangerous energy sources.”

“In contrast to the Prime Minister's comments, we know that renewable energy, like wind, is one of the healthiest forms of energy. While burning coal is linked to the development of potentially fatal diseases and kills 50,000 people each year in the US alone.”

“Unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation about renewable energy out there. Misinformation in the tobacco debate delayed action to protect the community for decades. We can't afford to let misinformation cloud policy decisions on climate change.”

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Professor Steffen also emphasised that not only is wind one of the healthiest forms of energy, the uptake of wind technology comes with significant cost benefits.

“Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy is getting increasingly cheaper to do, it’s better for the health of Australians and will bring down the significant health costs that result from burning fossil fuels.

“In Australia, it is estimated that the adverse impacts from pollutants produced from coal-fired electricity generation costs A\$2.6billion annually.”

**The Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organization providing quality information to climate change to the Australian public.**

**For media enquiries, please contact Senior Media Advisor  
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