

I have farmed in the Waubra area for 54 years with my wife.

The Thomas family has been in the Evansford/Waubra area since 1922.

Since the wind farm started operation in June 2009 when the East Mt Mitchell and Maiden Hill towers were turned on we found that our home was surrounded by large industrial structures on 3 sides.

We did not make an original protest because we believed the stories spread by the then promoters of the factory, ie.

1. It would be good for the area.
2. It would create new jobs.
3. It would be silent.
4. There would be few lights.
5. It did not harm wild life.

And we were not informed of any disadvantages that would result.

Although I don't think that I am personally physically affected I am very concerned about the health problems experienced by members of my immediate family.

My wife has many serious health problems which have worsened since the turbines were turned on. My son has also been seriously affected. My family believe that I do suffer health problems but that I am not aware of them. They notice distinct changes in my behaviour depending on whether the turbines are operating or not. As my son runs the property with some help from me he is sure that I am less able when the towers are operating.

I believe that the value of the property, the home block and the farm, have been devalued by the erection of the towers but my wife and I intend to remain here despite this and the ongoing health problems.

I expect the future increase in our shire rates results from the need to repair local road damage originally caused by the traffic while the towers were being put up and then the extra damage caused to the drainage patterns altered by service roads straight up hills, will bring down our farm income. Stud Farm Road is dangerous and undercut by water runoff from several tower sites.

My major concern is the bad affect this wind farm has had on the health and well being of my family.