

Submission for the Senate hearing on the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms , 8th February 2011 .

Our family farm is on the southern edge of the proposed Stockyard Hill Windfarm in Western Victoria where we have a long and passionate connection to the land and the environment with many , many hours spent in increasing the multi level diversity of the land in our care . Originally we thought the windfarm would be good for the community , especially financially , however , over the past few years we have learnt the DARK and DIRTY side of wind farm developments and their incredibly destructive nature .

The PROCESS ---- Wind Companies are NOT open and honest from the start to the end of the process , unfortunately . What a better outcome for all if they were not SECRETIVE , DISHONEST , MANIPULATIVE , did not spread DISTRUCTIVE RUMOURS about concerned residents and land holders and are plain and simply AWFUL to deal with !!!! It then becomes the role of concerned residents/landowners to research all they are able and educate the community of the other side of the story . This then enables people to make a more educated decision for themselves about wind farm development .

THE COMMUNITY ----due to the lack of open and honest process and total lack of constructive community conversations the communities become divided . WHAT A TRAGEDY!!!! ----- to have a company come into a community to DIVIDE and CONQUER based on money and the feel good “green factor “ .What right has anyone got to come in and destroy a community ?? Friends abuse friends , physical and psychological confrontations occur , openness and honesty goes out the window , life long friendships are destroyed ---- it is all so , so sad !! as it really happens and is happening We focus on building communities –not destroying them !!! To see what is happening to country communities makes me so very sad but also very angry – such that we will fight to hold on to the health and strength of our communities around us . It is not jealousy or lack of vision for the future that fires me –it is purely concern for our communities based on HEALTH , THE ENVIRONMENT and our FUTURE .

HEALTH -----yes , the usual blah , blah about no peer reviewed evidence ---PLEASE -----go out and speak with some of the sick people of Australia or around the world . !!!! HEAR and SEE the growing TRAGEDY which is not in their minds –it is in their bodies and directly related to the working wind towers . They don not want to be ill , many are even pro wind farms , --so how dare proponents PUT DOWN these people . Surely , if people are sick the turbines should be turned of --- why should they have to leave their homes to improve their health ?? This is surely an example of the power of the \$ to remove compassion from our community . I ask the members of the Inquiry –put your feet on the ground and hear these real life stories !!!

LAND VALUES --- There are many examples of people leaving their homes due to ill health but they are unable to sell their land . Usually it is the proponents who may purchase the neighbour at a reduced rate as many other prospective purchasers

will steer clear – who wants to live near wind towers and potentially become ill ??
The usual comment from farmers who own towers is –“ if we are ill we have the money to move so it is not a problem to us “. TO BAD ABOUT NEIGHBOURS with the devaluation of their land values AND the potential for illness !!!

ENVIRONMENT -----the visual landscape , the flora and fauna , the combined beauty of our country landscapes are very precious to me and my family .Extinct volcanic vistas , brolgas , multiple varieties of bird life complimented by the wetlands and plantings we have created and nurtured over the years , pristine native grasslands --- ---if we wanted industrialisation we would live near the city however we live on the western district plains where the wind blows and the \$\$ is seen as a salvation for many to the detriment of their neighbours and their community .

I ask members of the Senate Inquiry to listen to Mr and Mrs everyday Australian –we have HUGE concerns and speak to you from our hearts . Thank you for your time and effort relative to the Impact of wind farms on our Rural Communities .