

[...]
12 February 2011

To the Committee of the Federal Inquiry into wind farms,

Having worked on the site of the Waterloo wind farm South Australia in 2009-2010, I saw nothing that I considered to be anything to worry about.

However, since in and about August and September when the wind farm came into operation I have changed my opinion considerably. Although I have no problem with the visual aspect of the wind farm, I must say I find watching the turbines quite fascinating, there are also things that I am now finding very disturbing, for example:

1. Noise – I have been woken up on various occasions during the night, generally on calmer nights. (We live approximately 7km from the nearest turbine with a mountain range in between.) I believe I can feel at times the vibrations from that noise. I'm also concerned about the in audible low frequency sounds that are emitted and I am unsure from a health point of view what effect all of this may have on the health of my family and the community.
2. China – It is also disturbing to me that China has a very large interest in these wind farms namely Roaring 40's amongst many other assets they are slowly acquiring in our beloved country.
3. Family and Communities – Apart from what I have already written I am mostly concerned as to what I'm seeing socially. I know of one family talking about divorce and three families in conflict in our valley. I also believe in the closer vicinity of the Waterloo wind farms, most of the people are now wishing that they were never put up, not realising the consequences, I'm also now one of these people.

When we were asked to sign up to have wind turbines on our property, I said "Put on many as you can", being very naive and only seeing dollar signs. Now having experienced the social and physical effects on the district I am now of the opinion that we were misled into believing that there were no harmful effects. I am very concerned now if the wind farms were to go ahead on the Stony Gap and the Robertstown proposed projects.

I would be happy to talk with you and elaborate concerning these matters [...]

Regards,

Colin Schaefer.