

My name is Geoffrey Tonks.

Our family operates a B&B in the vicinity of Codrington Wind farm. The business is called Codrington Settlement & Gardens.

From our property we have a direct view of the east 1/3 of the wind farm which runs either side of our property and would be about 1.5 to 2 kilometers away.

We've been here 2.5 years now, and we've noticed no ill affects from the wind farm, either health wise or with issues such as noise, vibrations or disruptions of any sort.

Thousands of guests pass through our business each year, we've just had about 2,000 guests over the Xmas break, and we notice a very mixed reaction from them regarding the wind farm. The wind farm is quite a common topic of conversation with our guests.

Some say they would like to get a closer view, others comment that they find watching the turbines relaxing and graceful. Some make negative comments of various types.

When you discuss the wind farm with them we find that the negative comments are largely based on false knowledge or misconceptions.

We've had one known case of a prospective guest deciding not to come and stay here specifically due to the proximity of the wind farm, they said they were worried about their health being effected by the proximity of the farm. This was for a proposed 2 night stay.

We had one case of a person being distressed due to the noise which he believed was coming from the wind farm all night. When he told me this at breakfast I went outside with him and he "pointed out" the noise to me, it was actually the sound of the ocean beyond the wind farm. For this individual the noise changed from offensive to desirable in the blink of an eye.

A very large percentage of our visitors ask us about the wind farm. They ask how do we feel about it being close to us, how does it effect us, have we had any ill health due to it, how do other guests react to it. They often ask us if our neighboring farmers have commented about any health issues due to the turbines. A lot of them are surprised to see cattle and sheep grazing amongst the turbines, and a common comment is that it can't be too dangerous if the animals are content to graze amongst them like that.

We have very many conversations with guests about the wind farm, or wind farms in general. Our impression is that the public in general are very poorly informed, and the information they have is most often based on bad press, things they've read or heard at some time in the past, but mainly based on reports of communities opposing the installation of wind farms in their area and the issues they've used to oppose the establishment of a wind farm in their region.

People very often ask how many birds are killed by the turbines, do the farmers collect them and dispose of them, etc. We say that our neighbors have told us they have never seen a bird killed by the turbines. This draws a lot of reaction, because a very large percentage of people seem to believe that "bird strike" is a major drawback with wind farms.

Based on our experience since being here, our personal view is that wind farms are a very good concept, certainly more desirable than many other power generation methods being used.

The only negative issue we can imagine is the visual impact of the turbines might have in an area, but we ourselves we do not find them unattractive at all. In fact if you look at them with a different mind-set they are quite graceful, like giant ballerina's. We've said that to many of our guests and they agree, once they see it that way. Some say they have found the turbines relaxing to watch since they've been staying here and had the time to sit and watch them.

Regards  
Geoff Tonks