

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my view of rural wind farms after learning, researching and hearing accounts from those living in close range of turbines. Like many others I believed that wind farms were a good alternative for electricity, however for the reasons outlined below I no longer support their construction in populated areas.

I understand that the long term outcomes of wind farms are to improve our quality of life and health by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. I would like to make sure that it actually is going to meet this objective rather than causing detrimental health, economic and social impacts to those living in close range of these turbines.

Anne and Allan Schafer are my parents, and I am deeply concerned for their health, both physical and mental, as there is a 100 turbine wind facility to be constructed adjacent to their 100 acre farm at Berrybank in Victoria. Their property will be surrounded on three sides by 16 turbines within 2 kilometres and 30 turbines within 3 kilometres. Their lives have already been severely impacted with constant stress and uncertainty for their future. I fear that their beautiful home will be untenable, as well as unsaleable, and they are powerless to do anything about it.

We enjoy many great family times at this peaceful and beautiful farm. My husband and I are soon to become parents and we were really looking forward to our child experiencing the many delights of rural life with the family. But the health impacts of these huge turbines on many people living near to them is frightening, and we will probably no longer visit my parents after the wind farm is operational. The evidence is mounting, worldwide, that wind farms can cause illness and suffering. Victoria's new Liberal Government has acknowledged these serious problems by insisting on a 2 kilometre minimum distance between a turbine and a dwelling – evidence of their concern. Surely, there must be thorough and independent research undertaken into the health and social impacts of wind farms.

Thank you for your consideration, please contact me if you require any further information.

Regards

Mrs Catherine Williams