

To Senators

I am an Allendale East resident, in the south east South Australia and strongly oppose the Acciona wind farm that is to be built in our area. With approximately 150 members of our small community signing a petition so far and also 60 locals signing Statuary Declarations against the project, giving a clear message that it is opposed. I live approximately 1km from the proposed site and derive my living from our farm. I will work within a couple of hundred metres from the turbines and feel scared of the effects on myself, my family, as I have small children and worry of the impact of living so close, and also the effects of noise and shadow flicker on my animals. The problem I have is the lack of consultation by the Council and Acciona of a project of this size. A majority of adjoining landholders received no information of this development and if so a majority received only 1-2 newsletters over a 5 year period. After talking to other landholders around and next to the project site I believe that Acciona and the council avoided the people next to the development because these people would complain the most as they would be the most affected and the developer, from previous experience manipulate figures to give the perception that there is support to mislead Council and the community. After research I found a supposed 6 newsletters from Acciona and Council a supposed notification to landholders and occupiers. These newsletters, after requesting a few weeks ago are full of propaganda and no specific information other than questionable benefits but of a more worrying trend is the complete avoidance of any negatives of these massive industrial projects that with a small amount of research I found are all over the world, some of which are loss of amenity (obstruction of views), shadow flicker, noise levels at all possible ranges, health complaints, impact on landscape, damage to wildlife and loss of land values in adjacent areas. The proof of these problems are reported world wide and the way these problems are fixed is to buy out, compensate at lesser prices or ignore they exist. Quite often a suppression (gag) order coincides with compensation/ purchasing contracts. At the beginning of our project they used Waubra (Ballarat) to show how previous developments are well received by locals and how positive their feedback was. After this project was so call given the all clear we found many examples of people affected by the Waubra Wind Factory, many people with health issues, loss of land value and a divide in the community. There are many examples of buying out complainers as no one would purchase these properties at a normal price, if at all and also people who have no other reason to but chose to leave their homes and farms after their lives were affected. One farmer purchased his own sound testing equipment worth thousands to prove that there was a breach in noise levels inside his house, therefore giving him reasons for his affected health, he no longer lives there. Projects divide small communities everywhere by promising so much and splashing cash around. This committee that was supposed to welcome the project are now making adverts and protesting loudly after a few years of living near turbines and the ongoing further growth similar to the Hallet experience. Once their foot is in the door you can't keep them out. A large part of our small community oppose this project especially the closer to the area of construction, close to homes/ farms and township which includes our local school. Some people think it's not going to worry them but where will they build next? These things are massive and obtrusive. The proliferation on windfarms in South Australia is scary with over 50% capacity for only 8% of Australia's population with the ease of granting applications especially near communities.

It's all about carbon credit trading as turbines are inefficient at only around 17% of capacity in Australia yet the carbon footprint is only slightly less than gas turbines at double the cost of production and an unreliable source of power for grid base load. Solar should be expanded to allow a more reliable, renewable energy that everyone can benefit, not just large companies and more investment in South Australia of more efficient gas turbines as the aging ones are needed for wind back-up.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Spehr