

To the Senate Enquiry
The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

At the beginning of May 2010, I arrived in Evansford for an extended visit with my friends. I was very excited at their offer to host my stay whilst I looked for a property in the area.

The first six to eight weeks of my time in Evansford passed quickly and uneventfully. However, around the middle of July I started to suffer from strange tingling vibrations in my legs and pounding in my chest each night when I attempted to sleep. These symptoms have continued intermittently ever since.

Even more distressing to me is the marked increase in what was previously a very mild case of tinnitus. I also find when in Evansford I experience pain in my left ear. This pain is so bad I cannot wear my hearing aids, this makes my life isolating and stressful. I have noticed that when I have stayed with my daughter in Port Melbourne, the tinnitus symptoms are hardly noticeable, all other symptoms disappear completely and I am able to wear my hearing aids without any discomfort.

I believed I was going to be living in a community bonded by the working of the land, care of crops and animals and respect of and for neighbours. However I have witnessed long time neighbours pass coldly, and silently at the local markets. Locals becoming wary of who they talk to and what they say. In short a community divided!

The natural beauty of the area has been compromised by the giant turbines outlined on what was once a stunning skyline. I sympathise and totally agree with local Artist Edward Coleridge's concerns "*What makes this region unique is that it has a rich tradition of visual representation which, arguably, has entered the national psyche*". "*The painting identity of Western Victoria is being destroyed by the emergence of the wind farms*" his compelling interview was printed in The Ballarat Courier.

Recently when making an appointment in Ballarat, I needed to supply my address, and was taken aback when the receptionist responded by saying how sorry she was, that she had heard of so many people suffering from various health problems. She went on to say she was taking a more personally responsible action by installing solar power to supply her homes needs..... she thought wind turbines a bad idea..... indeed I heartily agree and believe that we can all take individual responsibility for our power needs. We should be encouraged in these endeavours, it is imperative we continue solar subsidies.

Subsidies to wind facilities, particularly when they are foreign owned should be removed.

I am no longer looking to live permanently in the Waubra-Evansford-Lexton area, or indeed any other area where turbines are likely to be built. My country dream has been shattered. Please do not turn a blind eye to what is happening in this community.

Marion Parsonage