

Waubra wind farm buys more properties

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Waubra wind farm operator Acciona has confirmed it has now bought out seven property owners.

Director of generation Brett Wickham said yesterday two more properties had been recently purchased by the company.

Mr Wickham said post-construction noise monitoring was completed in September.

This monitoring showed turbines near two houses could not be run normally, with noise levels exceeding those stipulated by the project's planning permit.

The turbines would need to have been run in reduced-noise mode, Mr Wickham said.

He said it was a commercial decision to purchase the properties, with confidentiality agreements covering the sales to "protect both parties".

Mr Wickham said four properties were purchased as an initial requirement of the project's planning permit.

And in February the company effectively silenced one of its most high-profile critics with the purchase of Victor and Trish Godfrey's five-acre property.

Ms Godfrey had alleged wind farms caused major health problems including insomnia, depression, headaches, dizziness, nausea and tinnitus.

At the time Acciona said the the purchase was prompted by factors that included the visual impact of turbines on the Godfreys' home.

comments

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I thought there wasn't a noise issue mr helper and mr howard, what's going on? might be like the ambulances I'd say

Posted by **Jack Campbell**, 18/11/2010 9:20:31 AM, on The Ballarat Courier

Gee whiz, there was no noise was there Joe?

How about getting someone other than the proponents to measure the noise to??

this windfarm is fast becoming a laughing stock, I know of a few people who have turbines on their land that now regret the decision, and feel they were had by the developer.

maybe acciona will buy the whole town and rename it something spanish soon!

Posted by **micheal turton**, 18/11/2010 10:28:35 AM, on The Ballarat Courier

The courier is now finding out that there is a real issue with this Brumby policy of wind turbines near homes. How about waubra, what a total mess of a small community this is turning into

Posted by **Ben Michaels**, 18/11/2010 12:41:44 PM, on The Ballarat Courier

Who are these "confidentiality agreements" protecting? Just a blatant ploy to hide the TRUE effects of wind turbines from the Victorian public. These gagging clauses are common worldwide, thus it is impossible gain accurate data. People who have been bought out by wind companies, primarily because of health impacts, are silenced from telling the truth.

Posted by **Anne**, 18/11/2010 1:36:49 PM, on The Ballarat Courier

Same thing is happening here in Canada, Acciona is involved in a wind farm, four empty homes. Families cannot live in their homes, very sad and unbelievable this can happen.

Posted by **Dave**, 18/11/2010 11:54:50 PM, on The Ballarat Courier

It is unfortunate that people are put into a position where they are being bought out because of the health impact of these turbines being placed too close. According to one rep from Acciona who's after our area in the US.. "these were old turbines, a previous owner was at fault - put them too close". We won't have that problem here. These new turbines are so... quiet. Ha!

I wish they'd get rid of the confidentially part - I don't care how much money the person gets (I hope it's enough to leave their home and uproot there family and the suffering they were caused). My concern is often these people are forbidden to speak out about the problems they had afterward they accept payment..

The rest of the world has no way to know what's going on unless victims speak out. The wind company tells potential leaseholders there's no health problems and look at all the jobs we'll bring to your area.

The company will say whatever it takes to get the wind complex in place.

Posted by **jannie**, 19/11/2010 4:11:33 AM, on The Ballarat Courier