

Submission to the senate inquiry into the adverse health effects of turbines

I left our home of almost 35 years on 25 May 2009. Once the turbines were operating I began to suffer extremely bad headaches and had a very cold body after sleeping. It's our family home but we could not live there because of what it was doing to our health. We just had to live elsewhere.

I have suffered extreme emotional trauma because our home of 35 years and a family farm has been lost to us. My family and I can no longer work or go to the property or any of the Waubra properties without suffering nausea, pains in the head pains in the chest, and difficulty in breathing. This all makes me feel constantly tired and emotionally very tearful. I cannot relax, travel and enjoy life generally.

If my home had been damaged by fire, flood, storm or any other means I would be able to replace my home. This home is unliveable because of the change in environment made by the operation of the Wind Farm. The Wind Farm has changed the nature of sound that I have experienced for 35 years in my home - peaceful country sounds very occasionally interrupted by the Clunes train at about 10 kilometres to the north or a plane flying overhead . These sounds occur occasionally, under certain conditions. They are here and then they are gone. The sounds and/or vibrations that come from the turbines can be felt or heard at the house, whenever they are turning, no matter the direction of the wind and no matter the wind speed or whether it is calm or a strong wind. What I now hear in my home is noise. This is a sound that is annoying and a nuisance.

I am a refugee of the Waubra Wind Farm because the wind farm company will not communicate with my family in any way other than complete denial of the potentially very dangerous situation my family is now in. This is most disturbing because it leaves my family in a no win situation. There just doesn't seem to be any hope for my family and I for a positive outcome. It just feels that all that will come from it is considerable heartbreak.

My father did not spend 6 years in the army 70 years ago for me to be a refugee in my own country. These turbines make me sick and the wind farm company does not care. They will not check to see if there is a problem. They will not check for compliance. Why are they not being held accountable?

We now dread going out to the farm at Waubra, not just because of the health effects, but because of the terrifying way our neighbour behaves on the road. When he is encountered on the road he looks to the left and pretends you are not there, you have to get off the road out of fear he is going to crash in to you. This is an extremely frightening experience when you are driving on narrow roads. This happens to other members of my family and neighbours as well. We believe he does this because he

has turbines and we have problems with the turbines and are talking about it to media, perhaps his mental health has been affected by exposure to the wind turbines.

The previous state government and wind farm developers have ignored my family's and my neighbours concerns, about the noise, adverse health effects and the social problems. This has caused much emotional stress and is taking an enormous toll on my family. Nobody in authority will take notice of our concerns, about the ill health we are suffering, about how the operation of this wind farm is making us ill. There is evidence to show what is happening. When will our family's concerns be taken seriously?

The developer refuses to discuss issues other than to say they need more information. We have supplied peer reviewed evidence of low frequency infrasound being present in a pulsing formation, and confirmation of adverse health affects suffered by us and our neighbours. This is in The Dean Report. The wind farm company just dismisses the report, without providing any peer-reviewed evidence to say why.

There just doesn't seem to be sufficient rules and regulations to make sure that this large company is abiding by its permit or to make sure that it responds to people's issues and concerns in a fair manner.

How can this company disregard people and the problems that they are suffering? They have not visited my home with the turbines going and so how can they understand the problems that are at my family home? This is a breach of human rights. How can they be allowed to do this to us?

Janine Dean