

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

We live in 6kms nth of Waterloo township. We have over 20 turbines visible to us with the closest being 2-3kms away.

Up on the ridge level with the turbines we own land, purchased when the wind farm was not going ahead (as we read in publications from the company Roaring 40's). We are unable to build on this land, as the house site would be 1200mtrs away from closest turbine in a direct line. The noise is terrible when on our property.

These turbines are unsightly and have destroyed the beautiful rolling hills we moved to live amongst. The wind farm has created a problem at our church, as you can't talk openly about the concerns you have as some of the landowners have contracts with the company and some don't and even within in families it has caused rifts. The whole community has suffered and been split.

When first in operation the turbines made me nauseous and feeling very anxious, when I looked at them. It took me three days (after they were turned on) to work out why my ears and some times my heart were pounding when I was in bed trying to sleep. This continues most nights, it depends on the way the wind is blowing, **last night we found it extremely difficult to sleep and the noise was like a huge truck rumbling, with a thumping noise as well. Also there was a mechanical noise. We could hear this noise in the lounge with the doors closed.**

Of great concern is the risk of high blood pressure from the turbines and the effect on my long-term health. A couple of people in the area have had heart attacks since the wind farm has been in operation.

How long I can keep living here with this disturbed sleep is very worrying to me as my husband is employed and where do we go and could he get more employment at his age elsewhere? We also have our land we farm and animals.

I would like the government to seriously look at the guidelines, for the placement of turbines. Move them away from people and where they live to avoid the long term drain on the health system when we have people suffering from the effects of the turbines in close proximity. Also the habitat of wild life, getting destroyed even if the company are supposed to be within guidelines they are "monitoring" the situation, mean while our wedge tail eagle population are gone and not able to find places for nesting. The trees which are now protected but weren't when the original application went through, chopped down and large roadways made for access to turbines. Make councils giving approval more accountable and look at the effects before rubbing their hands and taking the money offered in application fees and road maintenance by big companies. This wind farm would not have gone ahead without the company getting grants from the labour government. This is our money from taxes, why should we pay and suffer all these problems.