

RE- The Social and Economic impact on Rural Wind Farms.

4/2/11

Dear Senators,

Below are our concerns on country Wind Factories.

Our Home is 900 metres from the Turbines on the East side of the recently Approved, but not yet built Lal Lal Wind Farm.

Firstly we are disgusted in regards to honesty & open consultation in the whole process; there are many aspects which are all “behind the scenes” & highly flawed.

When we were first told of the project, we were informed that there would be no turbines on the east side of the Moorabool River, (due to expense of running underneath the River).

Not long after we discover that turbines are proposed between Moorabool River & Harris rd, then again later we find there will be turbines east of Harris rd itself, bringing them closer each time we hear about it.

Thus making the nearest 900metres although it maybe closer.

Currently there is no protection for local home owners & our concerns are not heard, no-one cares it's all about money & making the Government “look good”.

There needs to be a buffer zone between Wind Factory sites and Homes.

There needs to be a non-biased study of noise, vibration, shadow flicker, and health impacts on humans and animals, done on residences close to Turbines to ascertain a suitable distance as, although my thoughts would for it be at least 2 kilometres, there could be ill effects for homes up to 10 kilometres away.

Currently there is no compensation for home/property owners close to Wind Factories, this is terribly unjust, considering the huge detrimental impact placed upon them, whilst host landholders are gaining so much income at their expense.

In the case of Lal Lal one landholder has 39 out of the 40 turbines proposed on his property, being paid per turbine per year, exact figures are not public but I believe the payments are negotiated between proponents & host landholders at a rate of between \$6000-\$20,000 per turbine per year.

The host farmer Lal Lal Estate is a large commercial farm, whereas the neighbouring properties are predominately lifestyle hobby farms and the like, this is an area of population growth, due to the close proximity to Ballarat CBD & Melbourne City.

The landscape is very appealing and the peace & tranquility is amazing, that is the reason why we made the move over here from Gippsland in 2005.

Not be beside a industrial site disturbing our sleep forcing us to keep windows and doors shut at night when the air is more dense.

It is frustrating that a Huge Industrial site can be approved & built in a rural area with little resistance, with outdated & insufficient data, especially where noise is concerned, the tests need to be updated with correct Turbine heights.

The people affected by this Permits' Approval had no chance in appealing it through VCAT (for the minister not requiring a EES, Environmental Effects Statement), as the planning Minister called it in without any of us being made aware until it was too late. Sadly, city dwellers are easily brainwashed into believing Wind farms will solve all our emission worries, they are being mis-led.

Wind Power is around 4 times more expensive to produce, and consumers will bear this cost.

Wind energy can't be stored, and Wind Farms need constant back-up supply as coal stations can't be turned off when the wind is blowing,

Not to mention the huge emission & financial cost in building them.

The guidelines need to change Now, Before anymore Wind Factories are Constructed.

regards