

Our home is centrally situated amongst the proposed windfarms for South West region of Victoria.

For last 5+ years we have lost our overall well being and chosen lifestyle as a result of wind energy developers current practices and the State Governments Panel Hearing processes.

These are very bias and all weighted in favour of the developer and normal citizen's rights and opinion are continually simply overlooked and the any valid reasoning appears does not seem to be either reasonable or negotiable.

Many issues that warrant further investigations have been raised directly with developers but they hide behind the panel process when these hearings commence. Residents are over-ruled as in case of Lal Lal and Moorabool wind farm reports, stating that in best interest of Government's renewable energy policy matter is ruled in favour of developer. Not 1 Panel hearing in Victoria has outright declined the Developers proposal to date.

Community division has been damaged beyond repair. Our local church and bus service for children are no longer the same and these proposals have split rural communities dramatically. We can no longer get along with our country neighbours and are now often perceived as being "protesters or objectors" to something we did not ask for or have any financial benefit from.

Consultation by any of the wind companies is an absolute disgrace and is so bias that it is actually quite predictable. They are very poor at consulting residences, tell lies, cover up the truth, avoid public meetings, manipulate the media, generally dishonest people, have host land owners sign "gag" agreements and always have an answer for everything.

The planning processes are flawed and the State Government does not have a broad scope where appropriate sites are to be allocated prior to developers putting forward their proposals.

We built our new home here 6 years ago, only to find out 1 year later windfarms were being proposed in close proximity to our home. If we had known, we simply would not have built our new home.

The set back distances need to be pushed out as a minimum of 5kms from any home due to associated risks to health and noise. Our home is within 1km of the proposed Elaine site & 1.8km now to a new power station also.

The excessive noise from the turbines, power station and transport required to build basically just ruins the peace and quiet of our chosen lifestyle. Local roads will be busy with trucks and contractors.

We need our government to have a moratorium on wind farms and launch an independent and transparent investigation into wind farms before any more are constructed. We are becoming increasingly more concerned about the health impacts of turbines and this does need to be investigated further as an immediate priority before more people suffer.

This means all developments cease immediately including any that are approved and still not built such as Lal Lal windfarm, until the findings of studies are completed. If it means never proceeding with the permits or moving turbines for those already approved, then so be it.

You cannot irresponsibly compromise health and well being of rural families.

The noise limits used by the wind companies are out dated in Victoria is NZS6808:1998 and using lower turbine outputs in their proposals. The Lal Lal wind farm noise limits were determined for 2MW turbines but the planning panel has allowed for 3MW turbines to be installed. This may lead to a large increase in noise levels. The practice of allowing for larger turbines is unfair and needs to be highlighted to the inquiry.

We are aware that these wind farms and associated developments will now seriously devalue our home. No-one wants to live next to a wind farm so makes our home near impossible to sell.

We know 1st hand some of the residents who lived at Waubra and it is very disturbing that they are now being forced to vacate their homes and in some cases, after many generations of farming. Residents near operating wind farms are experiencing sleep deprivation, high blood pressure, depression, anxiety, dizziness, headaches, irritability etc. Many of these residents were happy to have the wind farm come to their area. People up to 5km away are experiencing these problems. Some families have had to leave their homes without selling their properties.

The windfarms are blight on our rural Australian landscapes and there is simple nothing attractive about them. Interesting to note that it is mostly foreign developers entering our country and have no regard for our traditional landscapes and simply state it is like this overseas in Germany & Denmark, therefore they assume it is ok to do the same here.

We are seriously concerned for our health, lifestyle and well being. Living next to a wind and be forced to defend or have a say for our simple way of life, has to be the worst thing that has ever happened to us.

Regards
Marcus & Shelley O'Brien
Elaine