

In 2007 I married into a family which has been farming in the Waubra area for 5 generations and moved from Melbourne.

1) Prior to moving to a new house I was diagnosed by Dr David Rollo, a senior cardiologist at Epworth Hospital, as suffering from neurally mediated syncope, a condition resulting from low blood pressure.

During a recent prolonged stay in St Johns Hospital Ballarat for a bilateral knee replacement I had blood pressure readings so low that all my physio treatment was rescheduled to the afternoon. At present as a subject of Dr Sarah Laurie's research my blood pressure is in the high to extremely high area for most of the day and I am now taking Micardis 80mg daily.

I also experience insomnia but have not exhibited the symptoms of sleep apnoea. I am a patient of Dr. Spring as are many of my immediate neighbours.

As a retired registered psychologist I am amazed to find myself exhibiting high levels of anxiety at times, stress and borderline panic attacks.

2) The nearest wind towers to our home are 1 kilometre away as this was the distance required by the Shire to grant a building permit. Although we were assured they made no noise this was a blatant misrepresentation as they sound like a large truck that never arrives.

One of the towers nearest our home is apparently faulty and does not track the wind direction accurately. I contacted Acciona and a representative came out to investigate. I was assured by that representative that I, an ex ocean yacht racer, was mistaken and incorrect about wind speed and direction. He was dismissive, condescending and unwilling to listen to neither my husband's nor my opinions and observations. His companion who was, I believe, the O H & S representative eventually intervened and said that he thought that we were right. After this extremely unpleasant encounter I eventually made a formal complaint to the Pyrenees Shire which was forwarded to DPDC and EPA (see attached). I still have had no contact with any employee of Acciona nor has any sound testing taken place on our property.

3) We will never recover the cost of building our new home. It is difficult to predict what the long-term impact of the wind farm on the locality will be. Our property is a largish holding with a luxury house and swimming pool but friends in the real estate business tell me it is probably unsellable at present.

Damage caused by the recent floods to the roads and our property has been exacerbated by previous damage caused during construction of the towers and service roads to the towers being built with complete disregard to contours or drainage infrastructure.

4) The existing limit (setback) of 1 kilometre from a home, has proven to be manifestly inadequate. Until recently, the total lack of oversight, and happiness by all government to allow self regulation, is a disaster.

Both local and state politicians have denigrated any individual who questioned the

desirability of placing huge industrial machinery in close proximity of people's homes. This level of abuse, often personal, has trickled down through the Waubra community and given pro wind farm advocates the right to abuse and threaten dissenters.

When I arrived in Waubra I joined various community groups to meet people and to make a contribution to the area. I have been forced to leave them all except one, because of animosity to my opinions. I am not comfortable using the local shop/post office for the same reason. Neither my husband nor I feel we can attend any local social or sporting events. We have been threatened and had property destroyed. Many former close friends including those who attended our wedding no longer speak to us because they believe our criticisms of the Waubra wind farm have devalued their properties and brought the area into disrepute. These opinions are reinforced by a very active campaign by Acciona's glossy brochures, bus trips for pensioners, school visits, monetary support for local groups and demonisation of any protestors.

It is difficult to see how the closure of the hotel, reduced opening hours at the shop and falling school enrolments can be laid at the door of a few people who have had the honesty and integrity to question the desirability of huge industrial structures, topped with flashing red lights and supported by high tension powerlines and a huge substation being placed in a highly productive agricultural area.

4) I have appeared as a witness at two Planning Panel Hearings, Mortlake and Moorabool. At Mortlake in support of a submitter who had been provided with a photomontage of their property with the proposed wind farm. that isnt which had been 'photoshopped' I submitted a folio of photographs. This folio proved Acciona had done the same in their Landscape Values Survey for the proposed Waubra North Extension. Hills were flattened, trees disappeared, roadside posts and signs vanished and such wide-angled lenses were used, distances and features were distorted. Ms Quigley QC, counsel for Acciona claimed I had no right to appear as I was a 'professional protestor'. She was over-ruled by the panel and the photos submitted.

At a second hearing I appeared to support Mrs Sue Giddings who was so emotionally distraught she was practically incapable of making her submission. Mrs Giddings I believe became so distraught because she felt quite intimidated by Ms Quigley's behaviour. Again Ms Quigley tried to have me not heard and was again over-ruled. I was married to a Queens Counsel for 31 years and I found Ms Quigley's approach in a civil hearing overly aggressive and adversarial. I know that some people who witnessed her attack on myself and other objectors felt intimidated and reluctant to submit in person.

I witnessed at the Stockyard Hill Panel Hearing, Mr Gobbo QC, representing Origin Energy, state the panel hearing is not a court room, it is not meant to be adversarial but to yield information. He then proceeded his questioning in a manner more appropriate to a court and not a civil hearing. Plainly the engaging of legal representation by Wind Industry companies is not conducive to a fair hearing. It is not a level playing field. not familiar with court process and so easily intimidated.

We believed the original lies from Wind Power Inc, no noise, no disruption, a few lights and made no early objections. We now know that not only are we paying a

price but it is making little impact on green house gas emissions or efficient energy production.

We are not leaving the area but I believe the socioeconomic damage done to Waubra will take generations to beat and this is directly due to the behaviour of Acciona and its representatives who have sown envy, greed and dissention among the community to gain their own ends - erecting inefficient, obsolete technology allowed because it made the previous state government look like it was doing something!

Maggie Reid