

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

I urge the senate enquiry into wind farms to consider the following:

- Effects on Health

The government passed legislation for renewable energy targets i.e. wind farms with no regards to the future health of people living in the vicinity of the wind farms. Side effects of inaudible noise has been well-documented world wide- can cause nausea, confusion, sleep deprivation. Low frequency (infra sound), low amplitude sound can activate our brains to increase blood pressure and heart rate in people with no previous history or risk factors of heart disease living 3-5kms from wind turbines.

- Wild Life

In south western Victoria one company wants to put turbines in close proximity to Brolga flocking and nesting sites. We only have 750 of these magnificent birds left and they are not the only species wind farms will affect.

- Fire Risk

A lot of wind farm sites or proposed sites are in rugged barrier terrain, some are even in world heritage geo parks i.e. volcanic country. In reference to agricultural areas aerial sprayers say if wind turbines go in they will keep out leaving residents without fire bombing aircraft

- Property Devaluations

This concerns all landholders as most use their properties for superannuation. Wind farms also cause social disruption and community polarization

- Noise Monitoring

Who will be responsible for policing standards, as the New Zealand standard is very hard to challenge. We should be looking at the Denmark standard for easier policing from neighbouring complaints. Who will be responsible for paying for this policing of standards? rate payers, government or windfarm companies.

- Planning Permits

I would like to see tighter controls on applications and re-submissions regarding changes to make the wind farm companies more accountable to the areas around the proposed sites. Wind farm companies should have to advertise their intent in local papers whenever they wish to change an original proposal.

We should include all infra sound measurements in all applications. Australia should have a infra sound guidelines

A moratorium on all new, proposed and yet to be commenced wind farms with no wind turbines erected as yet should be held until a all health and other relevant concerns have been morally and scientifically studied otherwise we could have another “James Hardie” disaster on our hands.

_ Ken and Rosemary Rees