

9/2/2011

To The Committee,

I live with my father at our family farm at Lexton which is located approximately 50 km's North West of Ballarat. Our family first settled here in 1860 and since then our people have never been faced with such an overwhelming problem that is the construction of nearby wind farms. Our property is situated 5.5km's from the nearby Waubra wind farm and since these towers were erected we have spent many nights plagued by the relentless droning of the wind towers. It may seem that we live a good distance from the towers however, I can assure you it is not. The noise echoes down the valley which runs from the nearest towers at Glen Brae to our home. The constant thrum very often keeps me awake all night, leaving me fatigued and exhausted all of the time. The noise is at its worst when the wind blows from the south east, and during this time it is near impossible to get any sleep.

My sleep deprivation however, seems trivial compared with the sufferings of many other people I know, most of whom live closer to the wind towers. There have been many symptoms displayed including irritating rashes, severe headaches, high blood pressure, constant insomnia, acute dizziness and vertigo.

My father and I have contacted Acciona (the operators of the wind farm) about our problems and we have reported our concerns, however our efforts were in vain as it would seem that the company has simply ignored us and no action has been taken. It would appear in, in my opinion that this big company don't want to know about us, they do not care about us and have done absolutely nothing to address the problem.

Our situation is so dire that we considered moving from our home in which we live, only to be hit by another problem. Upon correspondence with a local real estate agent,

we have been told that if the wind towers are visible from your property then 2/3rds of its value are instantly wiped out. He also said that even with a substantially lowered price, the property would still be hard to sell. This would result in a very significant loss to us as many blocks of our property would be suitable for lifestyle opportunities, but I guess after all, who wants to live under a bloody giant wind turbine? Another major concern for us is the conflict caused by the wind towers amongst the community. Many of our friends have left the district due to this dissension, their houses purchased or "bought out" by Acciona the energy company. Within the contracts of sale, confidentiality clauses prohibiting them from speaking out against the company, stop them from telling their horrific and heartbreaking stories.

Many farmers who are gaining financially from the wind towers are ridiculing and scorning those who are suffering from ill health. This has caused a major rift in the community, although as time goes by many of these people are themselves suffering ill health effects. They however cannot publicly complain as they too have signed confidentiality clauses. I myself am fearful of mentioning wind towers around the people of Waubra and Lexton as there is this constant conflict amongst the people who gain financially and those who do not. It was only recently that one man from Waubra threatened a peaceful protestor from the nearby town of Evansford with a shotgun. It was

simply a miracle that no one was killed. To say that this wind farm hasn't divided this community is just a blatant lie.

As far as planning goes, it has been a gigantic pitfall with no concern for local people living near the towers. The former Victorian Labour government and even the local council have failed terribly with what has a half baked, incredibly rushed planning process. They have failed to take into account the health of the people who live nearby and the very close placement of towers to homes. I wonder if they would like their families to live under the towers knowing what we know now.

As for local employment opportunities, after completion of the Waubra towers there seem to be none. I expect the same will apply at Lexton when the next big wind farm is built. Suck the locals in, chew them up and spit them out when the job is done. This is a case of a big company coming to a little country town, destroying it, and moving on.

I am writing this letter asking for help. I know that it may be too late for the Waubra wind farm but something needs to be done before any more of these monstrous wind factories are built. I beg of you, please do something about it.