

Attack of the Wind Turbines

(2009)

The blades atop 130metre tall towers swooshed incessantly through the air. Sending out waves upon waves of sound both audible and inaudible, affecting all families in their immediate proximity.

The beautiful Waterloo range had been carved into, the blood of the hills lined the roads where there used to be trees. The local fauna had fled the noise and destruction that the erection of the wind turbines had brought to the area.

This is the future of Glen Innes' Furracabad Valley.

I along with my brother, Fergus, and my mother, Suzanne McAlary, and my father, Ashley Peake moved to the Furracabad Valley near the town of Glen Innes about six years ago. Prior to this we had spent 12 months in the Kimberley in Western Australia living on a one million acre property on the Gibb River Road.

I have attended the local primary and high schools and have enjoyed what many call the quiet country life.

My father is the locum General Practitioner who relieves full time doctors throughout the New England district. Suzanne, my mother, has especially enjoyed the quiet life after touring with and promoting bands such as silverchair, Midnight Oil, Savage Garden in North Queensland.

Though all that is about to change.

Wind turbines are scheduled to be placed along the Furracabad Valley ridges. Destroying the flora and displacing the fauna of the area. This is something that must be stopped!

This is a story of epic proportions.

Large companies ignoring residents who live within one kilometre of the proposed turbines, refusing to give out noise data gathered at the opposing residents' homes, international companies pitting farmer against farmer, neighbour against neighbour and friend against friend.

Proponents of the wind turbines writing insulting letters to the local paper, a battle with the council to obtain a DCP (Development Control Plan) and Prime News Television accusing my family that we moved here to sabotage the proposed wind farm.

The debate about renewable energy in Australia is of vital importance to the country's future. Wind farms will become part of the solution to climate change.

In order for public opinion to be positive on this subject matter wind turbines must be sited appropriately, at least two kilometres from resident's homes.

My family and I moved here for the quiet. We wanted a country atmosphere with friendship and kindness, but this battle against our neighbours who have agreed to put wind turbines on their land is slowly ripping this town in half. We have lost friends and are seriously considering leaving Glen Innes after I finish my HSC if the wind farm is approved in its current configuration.

This is a story that must be told.