



Please accept this submission which briefly details my reasons for objecting to wind farms in rural areas. Especially in the McHarg Ranges which has unique natural beauty, in part made up of balancing granite boulders which are a huge tourist attraction. Also, the wine industry in this area depends hugely on its cellar door trade which, of course, relies on tourists.

It is well documented, with evidence increasing daily, that health issues are mounting as more wind farms are constructed and operated within close proximity to residences.

- The social impact is horrendous. Family members against family members and long friendships split asunder due to the approval or otherwise of wind turbines in one's immediate visibility.
- The economic impact in an area which depends on tourists is shattered by the intrusion on the landscape of 300 ft wind turbines. Plus the rape of the visuals which encourage tourists is devastating to local economies. This is true of the threat posed by Transfield's proposed wind turbines in the McHarg Ranges.
- Medical teams are cataloguing evidence of the adverse effect of noise and vibrations emitted by wind turbines on people who live near them.
- Property values plummet in areas which have wind farms in their neighbourhood. In the McHarg Ranges many properties which have been on the market since the news of Transfield's wind farm proposals have not had one bid at auction, or after auction. This is devastating for those who desperately need to sell, such as elderly folk who need the money for aged care. So, too, with folk whose property has dropped in value and therefore have trouble with their mortgage valuations.
- Councils feel disempowered by the fact that they have no say or control over the land in their Shires once a permit for wind turbines is approved by State or Federal Government. Regardless of the wish of the majority of people in the area of a Shire in which wind farms are proposed, the Council is powerless to heed their ratepayers' wishes.

- A wind farm in the McHarg Ranges would gut the tourist industry in this area and economically ruin many private and small holdings. The evidence that wind farms are inefficient is overwhelming, therefore it is for the above reasons that I ask for my submission to stop wind farms being built be seriously considered by your Senate Committee.

Peter Russell-Clarke.