

10 AM - PM 7

TO THE SENATE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

HELLO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

I MUST SAY THAT I HATE THE SIGHT OF THE WIND TURBINES. THEY HAVE COST MY FAMILY AND I SOME WONDERFUL VIEW OF THE COUNTRY SIDE THAT WE MOVED TO THE AREA FOR. WHEN WE MOVED TO BECKWORTH COURT ROAD , THE THING THAT SOLD US ON THE PROPERTY WAS THE LOVELY VIEWS IT OFFERED. WELL THESE DAYS WE HAVE SOME BUSH VIEWS LOOKING TO THE NORTH AND EAST BUT TO THE SOUTH AND WEST WE GET WIND TURBINES IN OUR VIEW. THESE THINGS LOOK HORRIBLE. PUTTING SO MANY OF THESE UP IS JUST LIKE GRAFFITI ON THE SHOP WALLS THAT YOU SEE IN THE BIG CITIES. NOW THAT IS ILLEGAL SO WHY IS LANDSCAPE GRAFFITI ALLOWED. THAT IS WHAT I CALL IT "LANDSCAPE GRAFFITI". VISUAL POLLUTION OR WHAT EVER YOU LIKE TO CALL IT, IT IS WRONG THAT SOME COMPANY FROM OVERSEA'S OR HERE IS ALLOWED TO CRUSH OUR SCENIC VIEWS FOR PROFITS. WE HAVE NO SAY IT THE MATTER AT ALL. THESE TURBINES ARE NOT ON THE SEASCAPE, NO , IF THEY WERE THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE COAST AND THE HOLIDAY MAKERS TO THE COAST WOULD ALL COMPLAIN. THESE COMPANIES PUT THESE THINGS WHERE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THE POWER GRID AND WHERE THERE ARE ONLY FEW PEOPLE LIVING, KNOWING THAT THE COMPLAINTS OF A FEW WILL NOT DETER GOVERNMENTS OR PLANNING COMMITTEES FROM STOPPING THESE PROJECTS.

THE RESULT IS WE HAVE THESE UGLY THINGS IN OUR VIEW, EVERY DAY AND THE LAND VALUES HAVE DECREASE AND WILL DECREASE.

I HAVE INCLOSED A COPY OF A EMAIL FROM SHANE McINTYRE A LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT, WHERE HE SAYS

A proliferation of wind towers adjacent to a property has the same effect as high voltage power lines, rubbish tips, piggeries, hatcheries, and sewerage treatment plants, in that ,if buyers are given a choice, they choose not to be near any of these impediments to value.

HE ALSO GOES ON TO SAY THE PROPERTIES COULD BE DEVALUED AS MUCH AS 30%. . WHY SHOULD WE LOOSE 30% OF OUR PROPERTIES VALUE SO SOME COMPANY CAN PROFIT. WE ARE NOT COMPENSATED FOR THIS LOSS IN ANYWAY.

ANOTHER THING WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE EFFECT THESE TURBINES HAVE ON OUR HEALTH. IT WAS ONLY A SHORT TIME AFTER THE TURBINES STARTED TO OPERATE THAT MY SON SUFFERED DEPRESSION AND FINALLY HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. HE REQUIRED WEEKS OF REHABILITATION IN HOSPITAL AND MONTHS AT HOME WITH US. HE HAS MOVED TO KALGOORLIE IN W.A. NOW AND IS DOING FINE. MY WIFE ALSO SUFFERED DIZZY SPELLS AND WAS UNABLE TO GO TO WORK AS A NURSE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. SHE STILL GETS SPELLS AND SOMETIMES HAS RINGING IN HER EARS. NONE OF THIS DID SHE SUFFER BEFORE THE TURBINES WERE OPERATING. AFTER I READ ALL THE HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT OTHERS HAVE HAD AFTER THE TURBINES WERE SWITCHED ON, I FIND IT HARD NOT TO THINK THAT THESE TURBINES HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON BOTH MY WIFE AND SON. YOU COULD CONSIDER OUR HEALTH AND IF THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT THESE TURBINES THEN YOU SHOULD STOP THEM STRAIGHT AWAY WITHOUT HESITATIONS.

PERSONALLY I THINK YOU REALLY SHOULD GO TO WAUBRA AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT UGLY MONSTERS THESE ARE AND HOW THEY POLLUTE THE SCENERY. ITS LIKE SOMEONE DUMPING A TRUCKLOAD OF GARBAGE IN YOUR FRONT YARD. THESE THINGS CAN BEEN SEEN FOR MILES AWAY. MINERS REST WHICH IS 30 KM AWAY AT NIGHT WHEN THE RED LIGHTS ARE ALL FLASHING YOU CAN SEE THEM FROM DAYLESFORD, ABOUT 50 KMS AWAY, ARARAT AGAIN 50 KMS AWAY, MARYBOROUGH 30KMS AWAY AND SO ON GOES THE LIST. THESE ARE SEEN FOR MILES AND MILES AND THEY ARE SUCH UGLY THINGS TO HAVE IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU WANT ONE , THEN TAKE ONE AWAY WITH YOU AND PUT IT YOUR YARD. AS I SAID BEFORE I HATE THEM AND MOST OF THOSE WHO I TALK TO DO ALSO.

NO MORE TURBINES

ALSO INCLUDED IS A COPY OF AN ARTICLE FROM THE BALLARAT COURIER NEWSPAPER DATED 18/1/2011. PLEASE READ THAT AND THE EMAIL OF SHANE McINTYRE.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS AND I HOPE YOU CONSIDER US, THOSE WHO HAVE TO LIVE NEAR WIND TURBINES

JIM ROBINSON

Sent: Wednesday, 19 January 2011 11:03 AM

Subject: Fw: Wind farm affect on land values

Shane sent me this letter and he is happy for it to be widely used to support our argument that wind farms have a negative effect on adjoining land values.

Regards

Subject: RE: Wind farm affect on land values

Dear Bryan,

I have been a Licensed Estate Agent for 30 years, specialising in the sale of Rural property, essentially all over Australia, with an emphasis on Victoria and the Riverina. I have held senior Management positions with the largest Rural real estate Companies in Australia.

In recent years the growth of activity and the actuality of wind towers throughout the Victorian rural landscape has been significant.

Challicum Hills, Coddington, and Mt Mitchell have all emerged as large scale wind farms, located on the tops of the low hill country, interrupting the landscape for many kilometres.

Of significant importance, is the negative effect on the value of adjoining lands where wind towers have been erected. Visually, the towers are seen by the majority of the market as repulsive. Audibly, the towers effect the stillness a property enjoys, in particular the resonating tones in the night, invading serenity of the adjoining lands.

A proliferation of wind towers adjacent to a property has the same effect as high voltage power lines, rubbish tips, piggeries, hatcheries, and sewerage treatment plants, in that, if buyers are given a choice, they choose not to be near any of these impediments to value.

The ultimate effect is that the number of buyers willing to endure these structures is significantly less than if the structures were not there. This logically has a detrimental effect on the final price of the adjoining lands.

Experts assess the loss of value to be in excess of 30%, and sometimes up to half.

My personal experience is that when an enquiry (potential buyer) becomes aware of the presence of wind towers, or the possibility of wind towers in the immediate district of a property advertised for sale, the "fall out" of buyers is major. Very few go on to inspect the property, and even fewer consider a purchase. On the remote chance they wish to purchase, they seek a significant reduction in the price.

There is absolutely no doubt, that the value of lands adjacent to wind towers falls significantly in value. The ambience of a rural property is important, and oftentimes, the sole reason why a purchaser selects a particular area or district. The imposition of wind towers, destroys this ambience forever.

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Former Waubra resident Trish Godfrey yesterday told an Adelaide court how her dream home became "hell on earth" after wind farm turbines were turned on.

Ms Godfrey said she suffered sleep deprivation, headaches and nausea before moving out in April 2010 when Acciona purchased her property.

"It was like you had a hat on that's too tight and you have a pain that just gets worse and worse, and you can't take it off," Ms Godfrey said. "There was pain most of the time."

Ms Godfrey broke down in tears as she gave evidence at the Environment Resources and Development Court.

Dairy farmer Richard Paltridge is appealing a decision to grant Acciona approval to build a 46-turbine wind farm near his property, south of Mt Gambier.

Ms Godfrey said her symptoms began about a month after turbines were turned on, then got progressively worse.

"I said to my husband I'm not sick but I don't feel well," she said.

"It felt like I had a cold coming on all the time.

"My sleep patterns were changing. I was waking up two, three, four times a night. I couldn't explain it. I couldn't get my head around what was going on.

"You put it down to everything but what it is."

Ms Godfrey said she and her husband Victor, a dental surgeon, went on holiday to Darwin and the symptoms stopped, then resumed when she returned home.

"You get back and it starts all over again," she said. "It all came back with gusto."

Under questioning by George Manos for Mr Paltridge, Ms Godfrey said the 10-acre property was her "dream" home, where she and her husband intended to retire.

She said she planted 750 to 1000 boundary trees, about 30 fruit trees and 17 vegetable beds in the 10 years they lived there.

Ms Godfrey said she had been led into a false sense of security in a meeting with David Shapiro of Wind Power, the company that set up the Waubra project and sold it to Acciona.

"He told us there would be a couple of turbines on Quoin Hill, a couple on Big Hill and a few behind us," Ms Godfrey said

"He said there would be no lights, no wires and no noise."

Ms Godfrey said 63 turbines could be seen from her property and it became "hell" to live there.

She said the noise “pressed in” on their home. “It was anywhere from a low whooshing sound, a sweeping swoosh some days, and when the wind was coming from the north it was like a jumbo jet in the back paddock,” she said.

Former Waubra resident Carl Stepnell told the court yesterday he and his wife’s symptoms of chest pains, heart palpitations and sleep deprivation ceased after the couple moved away from the family farm to Ballarat in November.

“We feel as though we’ve got our health back,” Mr Stepnell said.

Mr Stepnell said his wife also suffered depression while living close to the turbines.

“Her whole appearance ... it was scary to see how bad she was,” he said. “She was really down, depressed ... shocking.”

Mr Stepnell said his five-year-old son attended Waubra Primary School until the family moved.

“I see a big difference in his behaviour,” he said.

“He is nowhere near as emotional ... he was pale. x

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