

Scott & Jodie Dennis

10/02/2010

Re: Inquiry into The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

I am writing in regards to the above Inquiry into The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms. My name is Scott Dennis and my family and I reside at 466 Grinters Lane Kolora which is on the border of the Mortlake South site in the recently approved Mortlake Wind Farm Planning Permit Application 2008/0538.

This application was approved by the planning minister at the time Justin Madden just a couple of months prior to his departure as planning minister in election. We have approximately 2 acres of land with the home and I am putting my concerns for the project in writing for your consideration.

Community Division

This application has had a large impact on the local community spirit. There has been threats and division that will have an effect the community for many years to come. This was a peaceful community before the application for turbines that have no impact in a rural area with homes close to people and their homes. Australia is a big country and I'm sure there are plenty of better options for projects such as wind turbines.

What is considered to be a Safe Distance to Reside next to the turbines?

We will have at least 5 turbines within 1.3km from our residence. I have two young children aged 7 and 4 and we have no idea how the low frequency noise will affect our health or sleep patterns. Wind turbine syndrome is a documented concern and I believe more research needs to be done to assess the safety of the turbines before any more are built. The application was approved under the 1998 New Zealand standards which don't allow turbines to be built within 1 km within a dwelling. There are new 2010 New Zealand standards and from what I understand is that if the New Zealand Noise 2010 standards are applied the turbines will have to be set back at least 2km from our property

thus reducing the impact the turbines will have on my family and myself. Also I agree that under the 2010 standards that any turbines that are built within the 2km distance would have to go under contract thus compensating the people that will be affected the most.

Property Values

Another concern is the lack of knowledge and research undertaken to ascertain how the wind farm will affect property values. This question has been put to Acciona energy and the response given is that there is no evidence to suggest that the farms drop property values. I find it hard to believe that the turbines will not have an effect on purchasers when time comes to re-sell. We have worked hard in the last 7 years to build equity in our property and I'm concerned that the Wind farm will diminish all that we have worked hard for.

Construction Stage

The construction stage also raises several questions such as.

How the process will affect our quiet enjoyment of life?

How long will the process take?

What maintenance will be required in the future and how will that interrupt our lifestyle that we have become accustomed too?

These questions have all been put to Acciona Energy (Energy Contractor) and the response is that "if we have any problems during the process please let us know.

I look forward to hearing what the senate enquiry finds in regards to the social and economic impact of rural wind farms.

Yours truly,

Scott Dennis