

To: Department of the Senate
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Date: 9/02/2011

Dear Senate Committee,

We strongly object to the Lal Lal/ Elaine windfarm and all windfarms that are near communities. Our house is within 2km from the nearest turbine. We built a concrete brick loft house about 8 years ago in Woodlands Road, Lal Lal. The countryside is so peaceful and beautiful; we don't want this ruined by huge, noisy wind turbines. We have three young children who will also be greatly affected by the turbines. We love going bike riding as a family and don't want to ride past all these huge turbines (130 metres tall) on the way to the Lal Lal falls, where a new playground is going to be installed by the Shire. Our children attend the Lal Lal Primary School, which is also close to the turbines.

There are so many communities affected. Lal Lal, Yendon, Dunnstown, Millbrook, Navigators, Elaine and surrounding districts. All these people live in the country to get away from noise and buildings of the city and now Westwind Energy are going to destroy that for everyone.

Placement of wind farms is all wrong, turbine companies look at the maps where high wind areas are and then proceed to look for good access roads near power grids to put the turbines in cheaply, it all sounds good but it doesn't take into account that where there are lots of roads there are more likely many houses too. What method needs to be taken is to look at the maps find an isolated position where roads can then be placed. These turbines need to be looked at as permanent industrial structures located well away from houses. It may cost more to this but we can't just look for an easy solution and ignore peoples' health, property values and overall appearance of the land. Australia has vast open areas close enough to Power Grids without access roads. These roads need to be funded by the Government to avoid all this confrontation. We can live with turbines if they are located carefully with straight forward guidelines.

The guidelines should be

1. No closer than 4-5 km from houses
2. Out of sight from houses and townships

The proposed turbines in Lal Lal are too close to peoples' houses'. Some houses are within 700 metres, close houses will greatly be affected by the noise, vibrations and shadow flicker. At night the turbines will all have lights on them, including 26 turbines in Lal Lal which have red blinking lights for aircraft. The countryside will look like a city. If the project goes ahead, we think the turbines should be a minimum of 4 km from houses.

Brendon Gullifer reported in The Courier on Friday 14 January that as a result of installing the turbines in Waubra many people started feeling unwell including sleeplessness, headaches and nausea and have been forced to leave their homes and are now healthy living away. Waubra residents Trish and Victor Godfrey have been paid out by Acciona and relocated to another location away from the turbines because of their health issues. We are all individuals with different body make-ups some of us suffer from sinutitus, headaches, migrains, hayfever etc. already from our environment, not everyone is going to be affected the same way from turbines and no one knows until they are installed how much it will be but we can stop the installation of turbines not like the wind and pollen etc..

Studies and surveys on prospective townships whether you are for or against wind farms in the community, (which are taken into account when implementing the wind farms) are not relevant as people don't realise what they are getting themselves into. From experience I can tell you wind farm companies have promoters for getting planning applications through and paint a rosey picture and have plenty of money to throw at it. Many residents have put a lot of their own money into fighting against the turbines and when one person, in the past Justin Madden, had the final say it seemed unfair. There needs to be strict fair transparent guidelines for everyone. We feel betrayed and hurt from this whole experience.

We think the wildlife will be greatly affected. We have lots of wedgetail eagles, owls and black cockatoos flying over Lal Lal. How many birds are going to be killed by the huge turbine blades?

Many Lal Lal/ Yendon residents are not concerned with the planned turbines as the media tell them that turbines are clean energy and they will solve all our problems. People are misinformed that the turbines are

not noisy and will not affect our lives. The sound guidelines for Victoria is NZS6808:1998 which is 12 years old and was taken for small turbines 30-40 metres high it is inadequate and should be revised, our turbines are going to be 130 metres high in some areas with constant thumping and whooshing noises carried for km's it is going to be a nightmare forever.

Wind turbines are being planned all around the Ballarat area. It is going to ruin the lovely countryside everywhere.

Senate Committee, would you and your family like to live near wind turbines? Please consider all proposed wind farms and if they are near homes put a hold on them and then abolish them and introduce new guidelines immediately so no more time and money are wasted on wind farms that will ruin rural communities and leave a bitter and betrayed feeling for everyone. Is it really the solution for climate change we are looking for?

Yours faithfully

Leesa & Jonathan Inglis