

Dept of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600  
ACT

Dear Sirs,

In 2006 / 2007 I sought out and subsequently purchased an Edwardian house with partial stone original cottage and sheds on 2.2 hectares at Cape Bridgewater, Southwest Victoria. The Cape is an area of extreme natural beauty with a microclimate unusual on mainland Australia.

Pacific Hydro informed me that a number of wind turbines would be installed in the area. On enquiry I learned that the majority of residents was not in favour of this installation, but it would go ahead regardless. I located the available information and concluded I would go ahead with the purchase. I could not resist the opportunity to explore life on the Cape and its surrounds in retirement.

I now realise that it is singularly impossible for a person to assess the visual impact, the proximity factor, the issues ranging from anticipated to actual noise intrusion and the complexities of daily life in the vicinity of wind turbines with the details supplied by the developer, and ones own knowledge. In conclusion no wind farm should be proposed in close proximity to residential or farming communities. No proposed wind turbines can be realistically assessed by existing residential and farming communities. Developers are not likely to present reliable and factual information to impinging residents. My obtained information stated that there was no confirmation about Wind Turbine Syndrome. On reflection I should have been made wary by that very statement.

Work was commenced on the foundations of the turbines in late 2007. The two sites were completed in 2008. Their great height, width and presence was displayed. The site closest to my home is 620 metres. When the turbines were activated in 2008 I could only feel intimidated. As a result I could only stay spasmodically in the house between 2007 and 2009. I lived continually in the house from August 2009 to August 2010. During the period of continual residence, my health was gradually disrupted until I realised that the symptoms of concern were accumulative and of a certain pattern. Palpitations, anxiety connected to sleep deprivation, increased urination, apprehension as to anticipated noise commencement and increase in blood pressure, which has reached 205 over 95 and I am now on appropriate medication.

I wrote to Pacific Hydro expressing my concerns, sending a copy to the Health Officer of Glenelg Shire Council Mr Greg Andrews. I had a short meeting with Mr Andrews. Although he readily agreed that the Turbines should not have been put upon the Cape, and he explained what was happening inside a stone cottage on the Cape regarding trapped vibrations within the living space due to infrasound, the matter has been taken no further.

Fire is also a concern. Two Pacific Hydro employees came to my house to discuss general issues. When asked about fire outbreak, should we have to exit through the turbines, they told me to put bolt cutters in my car. It has been suggested to me that in the event of fire in a turbine, the local fire service is instructed not to enter Pacific Hydro property and to let the fire burn out. It is on record that in the event of structural disintegration, debris has been recorded at a distance of over a kilometre. Set back distances in other countries are far bigger than in Australia for safety reasons. It greatly concerns me that they are far far closer to residential properties in Australia.

In conclusion I write to you that I feel irresolute and despondent. Many fine community members of the effected Victorian countryside are living with this problem on a daily basis. Naturally this incurs yet another health issue. Time and energy by professionals and residents alike which could be put to much

better use for the betterment of their own families and their communities.

How were these largely overseas developers permitted to intrude on the Government's coffers with no identifiable benefits to our energy production? I suspect that the respective companies and absentee landlords are the only beneficiaries.

The Glenelg Shire Council has failed in its "duty of care" to its constituents.

Every house on Cape Bridgewater is within the two kilometre zone of the Pacific Hydro Wind Factory. What proposals are to hand to rectify this malfunction?

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Trist.