

SENATE INQUIRY : THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

This is what the wind turbines have done to me and my husband.

We live near the Wonthaggi Wind farm. Every morning, noon and night we see these turbines turning on and off to catch the wind. We know they are using brown coal to start the turbines moving so that they can catch the wind. It eats away at us for we know the truth about them as even when they are going the electricity runs around hoping to be used. But we are paying through the nose for this so called green power.

I feel so sorry for people trying to fight them as the (former Victorian) Labor government had a mind set to have them.

One night about 2.45am my husband came back from the toilet and said the turbines had sparks coming out of the top. I panicked and rang the fire brigade. The fire brigade did not know how to even get in to the wind farm so they got lost and had to ring me to find where to go. By then it had stopped. I was classed a nuisance caller. What hope do I have?

All the land at the wind farm site is the old Wonthaggi state coal mine and it is undermined. You are not allowed to build a house on the land like the wind farm company did, not even knowing it was undermined. The Planning Panel did not care.

There are no rules on how close to houses turbines are allowed. The wind farm company did not care anyway. Turbines are only 600 metres away from our home.

Noise readings do not really matter because the turbines do not run at 33% very often. When they had finished monitoring our noise levels they said the three machines monitoring the noise were broken?

Ha Ha. So they redid the noise monitoring five months later, but the turbines were only running at about 19.5% not 33%. Even so we still had readings of 68 dB with the turbines only running at two-thirds the rate. This did not show up in the readings too many times.

I have tinnitus now which I did not have before the turbines started operating.

Friends sold out with wind turbines being only 4 metres from the fence line. They built one home stay eco friendly house and another is on the way. There is no cattle and a large wet land for wild life on this property and now because of the turbines they have lost money but they made the choice.

Study on wild life was carried out by the owners grandson. He checked for birds that had been killed at about 10 am. Birds do not fly around at that time of day and foxes would have eaten any birds that were killed by then.

We fought the council for signage after many people were coming every day to our house and business (nursery) trying to find a way to the wind farm. We are getting very frustrated and annoyed. We asked for big signs at each entry but still to this day people come here to try to get to the wind farm.

I have always explained to people that the turbines start with brown coal, then stop with brown coal.

They are operated from Germany and they only run one week in every 3 weeks. But most figures from around the world say they only run about 26% of the time. They are quite amazed that electricity from turbines is not stored, just floating around to nowhere.

We are an adjacent property but there was no notification but I really thought they were a great idea. I did not complain and then when I was told the true story I started to fight.

At the panel hearing I told the panel about not been notified. The head lady at the hearing said *Here, you are notified*. With no respect and with plain rudeness.

I feel wind farms should not have been decided by the (former Victorian) Labor government. It should really have been independent. Not one sided as it was.

With fighting the turbines my health and business suffered very much. We were ridiculed in the paper very much.

Our health and business still suffer.

On the noise people say they do not hear them very much but the trouble is they go up and down and the noise is in our heads going WHA WHA WHA (On Monday it is always louder, we don't know the reason why this happens).

Why don't they listen to the council and the people. They did at Dollar (Foster) and St Clair, at Wonthaggi as it is now stopped.

At the panel hearing our big card in hand was they said the land was 1200 metres long. We knew it was only 1000 metres long. The head panel lady said in reply to this situation *It fits, that's it*. With no respect to any of us. It was because of her attitude we knew we had no chance to win right from the start.

We have now lost one of the best and most pristine coast lines in Victoria and our history. Now we

have an industrial coast line.

How many more beautiful areas have to be destroyed.

At Toora they have pulled down 2 houses due to noise and turned some turbines off.

Our electricity bill will show people what is really happening. It is not green energy talking, it is money talking.