

Parliament of Australia Senate inquiry

Being involved in the proposed wind farm of Church Lane between Penshurst and Dunkeld in Victoria. An approach was made to us by Newen the wind farm proponent. Promises of wind towers by wind farm proponents were made before they even knew where our land was, based on pure speculation. Newen gave us a lawyer to contact to check the contract and sign an agreement for the investigation of the contract and any alterations, in the mean time the neighbour was building a new house which placed us in the exclusion zone.

The lawyer still required the account be paid regardless \$4,500, finally a letter to the wind farm to take responsibility for this, they paid part of this amount to keep us quiet with the possibility of using our land a native offset. This took place over 15 months.

Speculation to farmers has become the norm without even considering their views, they have a set contract which farmers cannot even alter even if it is their land. They like farmers to 'sign up' before any testing is done for a license/lease, which is like a noose around our necks. They should get farmers to sign a license to test first and when wind tests are done sign the lease. Every wind farm seems to want a monopoly on the whole area.

After experience with the Church Lane wind farm, another wind farm south of Penshurst is proposed with 225 towers 175m high as well as 140 towers at Macarthur and 190 towers proposed at Willatook.

Have met with a small group at Penshurst (Southern Grampians Landscape Guardians) investigating the impacts of this huge industrial wind farm which is to be built on a world renowned Geopark of lava flows and will affect broilga's as well as flora. Discussion on why this area south of Penshurst, RES the proponents involved said it was a good area to EXPLOIT is not this 'environmental vandalism'. Being a neighbouring CFA captain all fire fighting capabilities must be done by the air because of lava flows, stony rises etc. This wind farm will be within 1.5km of the township. Aircraft will not operate among towers; RES proposed that fire fighting will be done from their access tracks 6m wide. These tracks in smoke are a death trap, Team leaders will not put crews safety at risk on these tracks. The cumulative noise from this setup has not been tested but they have had "assessments" done. They don't even know what turbines they will use yet.

The wind farm proponents have a lot to answer for as they speculate & dictate to farmers involved, state to farmers how much they will benefit in dollar terms but they do not give the farmers the full picture infrastructure, trucks, powerlines, crane pads, etc.

The government must regulate these wind farms more closely distances from towns, dwellings etc. And get a study on health effects done independently.

The amount of proposals of wind farms in our area is nothing short of disgraceful and disgusting. For example Codrington on the coast, then Macarthur, then Willatook, then Penshurst, then Morton's lane, then Church Lane, then Glenthompson, then a proposal at Ararat.

Is there a regulator in the government to stop this madness of proposals of wind farms being so close together? Therefore creating friction in small communities being for or against this industry, farmer against farmer.

Proponents of wind farms are only dollar driven, coming into the communities with no consideration for the lives of those who have to live with towers. Property values according to real estate agents facts will drop up to 30%.

This submission to the inquiry is a negative.

Everard Linke