



**Granite Boulders Landscape Guardians**



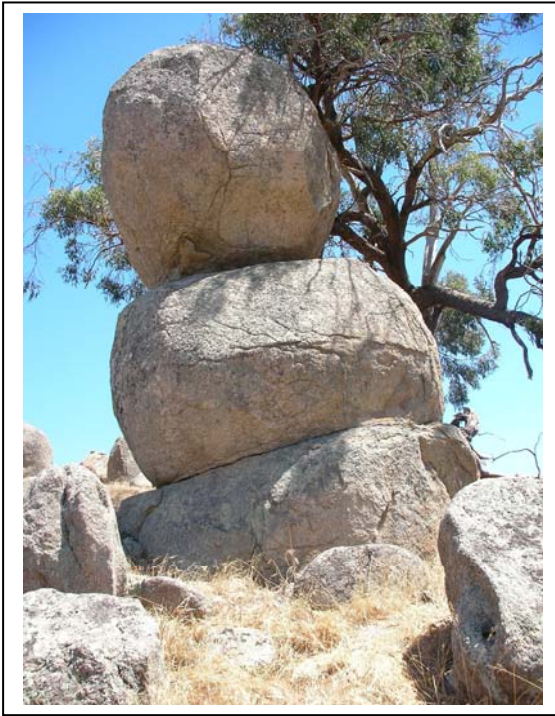
**WOULD YOU PUT THESE IN  
THE MOST **FIRE** PRONE AREA  
IN VICTORIA ?**



PO Box 35, Tooborac. Vic. 3522.  
0409496576 email: [graniteboulders@gmail.com](mailto:graniteboulders@gmail.com)

# A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE WE **MUST** PRESERVE

- **PRESERVATION** - As custodians of this area we are duty bound to preserve it for future generations.
- **LANDSCAPE** - This unique and spectacular landscape will be overwhelmed by massive wind turbines that will change the visual impact to an industrial wasteland.



- **RADIOACTIVITY** - Radon<sup>1</sup> a gaseous element present in granite rock may be released into the air when blasting occurs. This could be a health hazard to all residents as the radioactive dust may settle on houses contributing to a possible increased risk of cancer. 'Did anyone suspect asbestos cement sheeting years ago?'
- **EROSION** – Granite country is fragile and there is a real risk of serious erosion when building this enormous proposed industrial complex
- **SALTING** – in the catchments may increase, due to excavation, infrastructure, roads (40km estimate), and concrete footings (combined length 1.7kms estimate), altering or destroying seasonal springs, ridge lines, and revegetated areas.
- **DESTRUCTION** – Transport of the huge towers (110m plus) will require our quiet country roads, verges and bridges to be altered, widened and cleared. Disruption and inconvenience to local residents, and destruction of the habitat, fauna and flora is inevitable.
- **BLASTING** – will be necessary for each concrete footing and access roads. Precariously balanced rocks will be dislodged and avalanche to the valleys. Blasting will damage/destroy springs and thereby affect dams and water supply.
- **TV** – Disruption to the signal caused by electro-magnetic interference.

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<sup>1</sup> Radon Update SNM Committee on Radiobiological effects of ionizing Radiation.  
Granite Radon Online Facts.

# SAY **NO** TO BAYNTON WIND FARM

## IF WIND TOWERS ARE BUILT ON THE McHARG RANGES THEY WILL AFFECT **YOU!**

- **LAND VALUES** - could drop by up to **30%** or more, evidence is now appearing that properties with wind towers nearby are un-saleable. Mr Mark Ivison, General Manager Development Group, Transfield Services stated that there would be no compensation for affected property owners.
- **AMENITY** - Growth in boutique businesses - wineries, B & B's, olive farms employing locals will dry up. Tooborac is changing from a farming zone to an amenity zone attracting lifestyle residents.
- **FIRE** - Each turbine holds 120 litres of oil, fire is to be expected.. The proponent's policy is to let fires burn out expecting the local CFA to mop up.



### **WHAT'S YOUR LAND WORTH NOW?**

### **YOUR BACKYARD! (WAUBRA)**

- **FLICKERING LIGHTS** – towers being close to Puckapunyal and under the Brisbane/Melbourne flight path flickering lights will be required for each tower.
- **EASEMENTS** – may be compulsorily acquired to allow transmission to the grid of overhead power lines which in turn will increase the bushfire danger as occurred at Kilmore East on Black Saturday.
- **BUSHFIRE ROYAL COMMISSION** recommends transmission lines be placed underground. How is this possible in our granite country? The Minister of Planning can exempt Transfield from complying with this guideline.
- **LIGHTNING** - The likelihood of fire due to lightning strike is a real threat The test equipment in Mission Hill Road was struck and damaged by lightning.



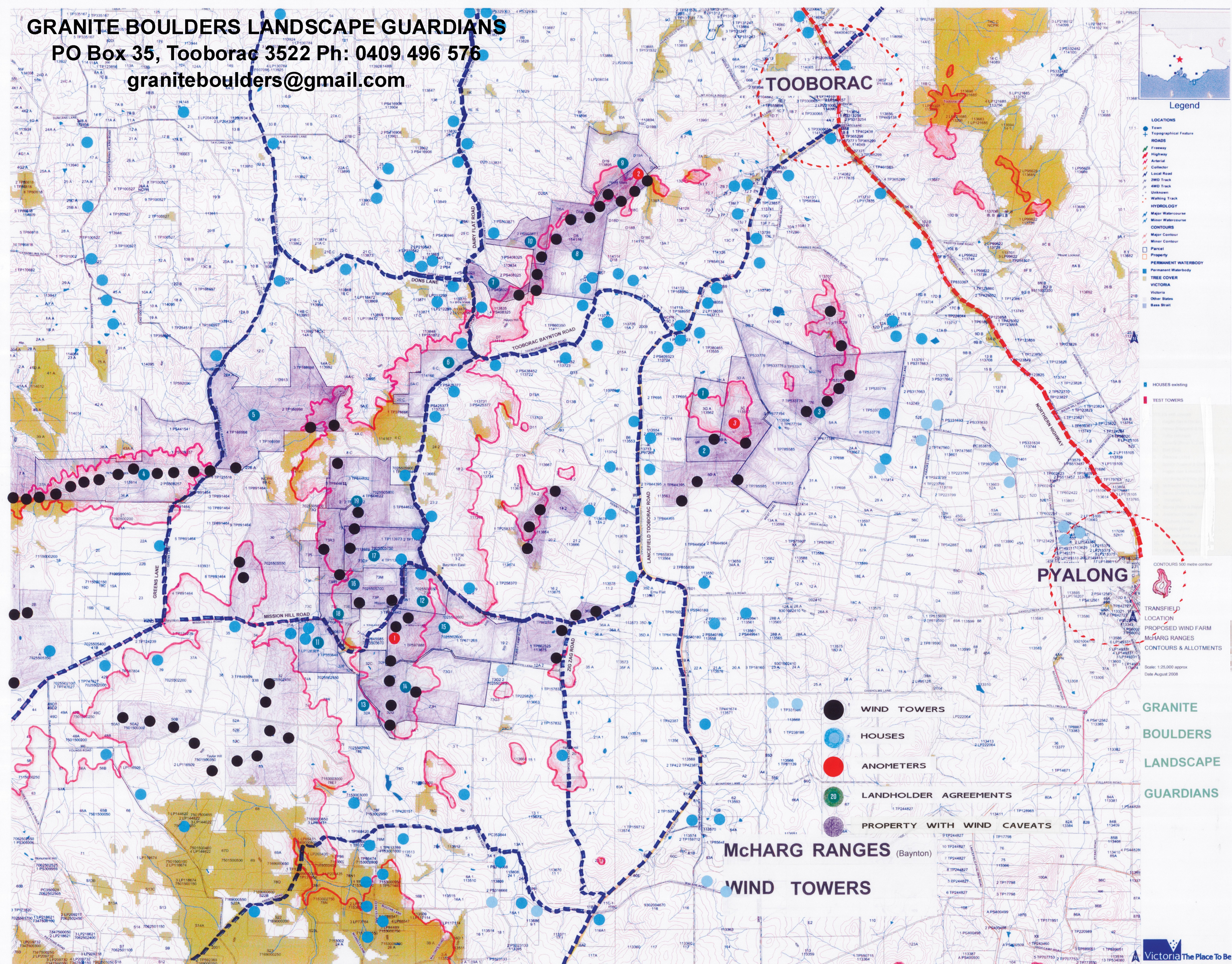
- **BIRD LIFE** - Eagles and other birdlife will be decimated as blades travel at 300kph at the tip which fools the birds. Woolnorth wind farm Tasmania has witnessed a decimation of the eagle population far in excess of what was predicted by experts. Do you want to be a party to this?



# GRANITE BOULDERS LANDSCAPE GUARDIANS

PO Box 35, Tooborac 3522 Ph: 0409 496 576

graniteboulders@gmail.com





# **(((NOISE))) YOUR HEALTH!** **WHO CARES - IF YOU DON'T THEY WON'T**

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN HEAR BUT WHAT YOU CAN'T HEAR**

## **WHAT IS WIND TURBINE SYNDROME? (Waubra Disease)**

Transfield's wind farm will be a threat to our health and well being.

A noise impact assessment report by NMS – “Waubra Wind Farm July 2010” and **peer reviewed** criticizes the Government's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) report “Wind Turbine and Health: A Rapid Review of the Evidence”. The NZ S6808 and NHMRC Report is relied upon by Vic Gov and Wind Farm Developers. The new July 2010 Waubra Report recommends that “a study be undertaken to assess health effects due to wind farm exposure”.

Worldwide, there is mounting evidence that proximity to wind farms causes “**migraine, motion sickness, vertigo, noise and visual and gastrointestinal sensitivity, and anxiety**”.

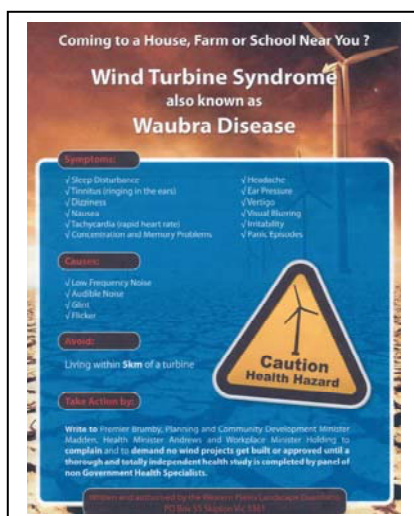
The best known researcher on the issue is an American, Dr Nina Pierpoint, MD, PhD. She has documented many examples in the US of these symptoms being caused by wind turbines. Despite attempts by wind companies and Governments (like Victoria) to disparage her work, Dr Pierpoint is rapidly gaining scientific recognition, and exposing the hypocrisy of the industry on this issue. Her work is increasingly backed up by others. The wind company at Waubra is denying the problem, but quietly buying out affected residents and swearing them to silence.

Wind power promises to be the next asbestos. Dr Pierpoint describes wind farms as Government sanctioned violence against innocent citizens. There are **court cases** going on right now in the US, UK and Australia with affected residents seeking compensation. In Victoria, while Mr Brumby refuses to protect rural communities, VCAT on 27 April, 2010 acknowledged the problem in denying a planning permit to a wind farm near Mortlake.

**YOU COULD BE AFFECTED** by exposure to this constant noise.

The only way to remove these risks is to stop Transfield.

## **2km SETBACK WOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF ILLNESS**



References: Wind Turbine Syndrome Nina Pierpont MD PhD  
Noise Radiation from Wind Turbines installed near homes by Barbara J Frey BA, MA  
VCAT Reference No P2107/2009 Permit Application No PL08/369  
Audiology Today Jul-Aug 2010  
Noise Impact Assessment Report Waubra Wind Farm July 2010 – Noise Measurement Services (NMS)  
Peer reviewed Dr R Thorne PhD, MS, FRSH, MIOA, MAAS [info@noisemeasurement.com.au](mailto:info@noisemeasurement.com.au)

# ACCESS ECONOMICS CONCLUDES THIS PROJECT IS **NOT** VIABLE!

## KEY FINDINGS

- ❑ A 200 MW McHarg Ranges wind farm does not represent a cost effective approach to greenhouse gas abatement in the long term. To that extent, it fails against a key government objective of wind power in Victoria.
- ❑ Access Economics has reached this conclusion after considering and modelling three key variables; the existing energy market in Victoria, the wind resources and abatement potential of a wind farm in the McHarg Ranges region, and finally the local area characteristics of the area in which the wind farm is to be located.
- ❑ The McHarg Ranges area itself is highly unique relative to other areas of operational or approved wind farms in the State. Land in this area is valued well above what it would be valued purely on the basis of agricultural productivity. Hence, the area displays the characteristics of a rural amenity zone, where land values are driven by lifestyle and aesthetic values rather than agricultural productivity.
- ❑ This enhances the likelihood that declining land values, themselves a reflection of a variety of detrimental local area impacts arising from a wind farm development, will add substantial additional costs to the project.
- ❑ Even without these local area impacts, the project represents an expensive way to approach greenhouse gas abatement for the State – we estimate approximately \$39 to \$45 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e, roughly double the recently established Commonwealth benchmark of approximately \$20 per tonne.
- ❑ The cost of the project becomes even higher given local area impacts, reflected in land value declines in areas surrounding the proposed wind farm – up to \$50 to \$56 per tonne for a general 10 percent decline in land values within 10 kilometres of the wind turbine sites.
- ❑ *'Access noted that their estimate did not include some costs, such as the cost of back-up plant required. Analysis since 2008 suggests the costs could be much higher'.*
- ❑ Not only does this figure represent an expensive way to approach greenhouse gas abatement from a whole-of-state perspective, there are likely to be serious equity and distributional issues surrounding this project, insofar as local area and land value impacts are involved. In particular, a large part of the cost of the project is likely to be disproportionately borne by those neighbouring the wind farm sites.
- ❑ The government's objective of cost effective greenhouse gas abatement can only be achieved when the costs of that abatement are fully recognised and compared against alternatives. Critical to this is full recognition of the local area impacts of wind farm developments, particularly in a lifestyle and amenity area such as the McHarg Ranges.



# WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Now each morning when I awake, I pray and then ask myself, "What have I done?"

I am involved with the BlueSky/GreenField wind turbine project in N.E. Fond du Lac County. I am also a successful farmer who cherishes his land. My father taught me how to farm, to be a steward of my fields, and by doing so, produce far better crop production. As I view this year's crops, my eyes feast on a most bountiful supply of corn and soybeans. And then my eyes focus again on the trenches and road scars leading to the turbine foundations. **What have I done?**

In 2003, the wind energy company made their first contacts with us. A \$2000 "incentive" started the process of winning us over, a few of us at a time. The city salesman would throw out their nets, like fishermen trawling for fish. Their incentive "gift" lured some of us in at first. Then the salesmen would leave and let us talk with other farmers. When the corporate salesmen returned, there would be more of us ready to sign up; farmers had heard about the money to be made. Perhaps because we were successful farmers, we were the leaders and their best salesman. **What have I done?**

Sometime in 2004 or 2005, we signed \$4000.00 turbine contracts allowing them to "lease" our land for their needs. Our leases favored the company, but what did we know back then? Nobody knew what we were doing. Nobody realized all the changes that would occur over which we would have no control. How often my friends and I have made that statement! **What have I done?**

I watched stakes being driven in the fields and men using GPS monitors to place markers here and there. When the cats and graders started tearing 22 foot wide roads into my fields, the physical changes started to impact not only me and my family, but unfortunately, my dear friends and neighbors. Later, a 4 foot deep by 2 foot wide trench started diagonally across my field. A field already divided by their road was now being divided again by the cables running to a substation. It was now making one large field into 4 smaller, irregularly shaped plots. Other turbine hosts also complained about their fields being subdivided or multi cable trenches requiring more land. Roads were cut in using anywhere from 1000 feet to over a 1/2 mile of land to connect necessary locations. We soon realized that the company places roads and trenches where they will benefit the company most, not the land owner. One neighbor's access road is right next to some of his out buildings. Another right next to his fence line. **What have I done?**

At a wind company dinner presented for the farmers hosting the turbines, we were repeatedly told - - nicely and indirectly - - to stay away from the company work sites once they start. I watch as my friends faces showed the same concern as I had, but none of us spoke out. Months later, when I approached a crew putting in lines where they promised me they would definitely would not go, a representative told me I could not be here. He insisted that I leave. The line went in. The company had the right. I had signed the lease. **What have I done?**

Grumbling started almost immediately after we agreed to a 2% yearly increase on our 30 year lease contracts. Some felt we should have held out for 10%. What farmer would lock in the price of corn over the next 5 years, yet alone lock one in at 2% yearly for 30 years? Then rumors leaked that other farmers had received higher yearly rates, so now contracts varied. The fast talking city sales folk had successfully delivered their plan. Without regard for our land, we were allowing them to come in and spoil it. All of the rocks we labored so hard to pick in our youth were replaced in a few hours by miles of roads packed hard with 10 inches of large breaker rock. Costly tiling we installed to improve drainage has now been cut into pieces by company trenching machines. **What have I done?**

Each night, a security team rides down our roads checking the foundation sites. They are checking for vandals and thieves. Once, when I had ventured with guests to show them foundation work, security stopped us and asked me, standing on my own property, what I was doing there. **What have I done?**

Now, at social functions, we can clearly see the huge division this has created among community members. Suddenly, there are strong-sided discussions and heated words between friends and, yes, between relatives about wind turbines. Perhaps this is of greater consequence than the harm caused to my land! Life is short and my friendships precious. **What have I done?**

I tried, as did some of the other farmers, to get out of our contracts, but we had signed a binding contract and a contract is a contract. If you are considering placing wind turbines on your property, I strongly recommend that you please reconsider. Study the issues. Think of the all the harm versus benefits to your land and, in the future, to your children's land by allowing companies to lease your land for turbines.

## WHAT HAVE I DONE?

### PLEASE DO NOT DO WHAT I HAVE DONE!

