



## QUOIN HILL VINEYARD

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

It is with great distress that we write to the Senate Inquiry regarding the noise levels at our property generated by Acciona's wind farm. We have resided at Quoin Hill for almost 28 years, after moving from Melbourne to start a life in the country with our young family. We have built up a small family business from scratch at great cost and with 'blood, sweat and tears'.

From the very beginning we were supportive of the Waubra Wind Farm, and were quite excited about the proposed benefits to Waubra and the local communities. When we were approached we made it quite clear that our only concern was noise. However, time and time again we were told that "there was no way that we would hear them", even after the preliminary noise tests were taken, we were advised that a proposed turbine some 400 mtrs away would only be 1dBA over the limit, and we would **still** not hear it. Since they have been commissioned this is a completely different story.

The closest turbine to our house is some 600metres away, (5 turbines located within 1km of our house, 13 turbines within 1.5 kms and 30 turbines within 2kms). The turbines on Big Hill (to the north of our house) also have an affect, which are within a 1.5km to 2km range.

The type of sound that we experience depends on the wind direction; it ranges from the 'doof doof' noise (sub woofer noise you hear when a party is going on down the street at night) to a constant 'jet rumble'. We can also hear the generator noise (like when a fridge fires up) and at times a 'whoosh' noise (like swinging a stick quickly through the air). These noises are not just for a minute or two, but can go on all night, not to mention the day.

On average we would say that we have interrupted sleep at least 3-4 nights a week, on some occasions up to 5 nights. As stated before, this has been since they have been commissioned. We have tried to escape from the continuous noise by relocating to 1 of the 4 bedrooms in the house, but only to be awakened by noise from other turbines. This continuous interruption to, and lack of sleep has had an enormous impact on our lives, our business and our future.

We met with Acciona in April 2010 to raise our concerns, only to be advised that the

noise levels were compliant. We have been monitoring the noise levels with our own decibel monitor since March 2010 and have found the readings at times, to be far in excess of the permit conditions. We have grave concerns about the accuracy and integrity of the monitoring carried out by Marshall Day and strongly urge an investigation of the entire process be carried out. We continue to monitor and have rung the Acciona complaints phone line on numerous occasions, with little or no response at all.

It has come to our attention, albeit years down the track, that our property title details have been listed on the planning permit (unknown to us at the time), hence suggesting that we are Stakeholders, and even though a request has been made in writing (15th Feb 2010) to have us removed, this has still not happened. We firmly believe now, that our property and house were central to the Waubra Wind Farm project and we have been misled from the beginning about the noise affect. We have since been advised by a neighbour (a stakeholder with turbines), that at the start of the project Wind Power stated, "Quoin Hill could have had a very negative impact on the project if not kept on side".

We had a meeting with the Pyrenees Shire Mayor, David Clark, in August 2010 to raise our concerns re the wind farm, and were advised that following the last Shire Revaluation all properties within the Waubra Wind Farm had decreased in value, which was confirmed on receipt of our last shire rate notice. A neighbour has also advised us that a shire employee recommended challenging the valuation, as they believe the actual valuation to be still lower.

We welcome a visit to our property to see the situation that we are in, first hand.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Coleman