

Wind Farm Submission to Senate from Rod Dean

My first experience with the Waubra wind farm was that I found a map which had wind towers on the hill neighboring my property of 153 acres in 'The Courier' newspaper. I purchased this land in 2002 with the intention of building my future home. When this happened I contacted the Pyrenees Shire's planning department and explained the situation. I was told very abruptly that the wind farm company had put a lot of money into the project and if I applied for a building permit for my house the Wind Farm Developer would not have to comply with noise standards.

After the wind farm started to operate, my parents started to experience headaches and had to move from their house. This house was the base for our business. Acciona took the low frequency noise data inside the house of our property at Stud Farm Rd. The requirement in the wind farm planning permit requires subjective assessment for the presence of special audible characteristics to address low frequency noise and this was not done.

At this time the representative from Marshall Day asked me if I was having pressure in my ears. At this stage I was not, due to me not living there, and only being on the property for work. After a couple more weeks of working at our property I started to get pressure in my ears and headaches which lasted for days even after leaving the area. This continues to this day. The more hours I am working on our land neighboring the turbines, the longer it takes for the headaches to subside.

Due to ear and head pain I experience, I avoid working on this land as much as possible when the wind farm is operating. This results in work getting put off that should be done, lowering the productivity of our property. When I do work near the wind farm, I still have headaches which last hours or days, that make me very tired and unable to work to my full capacity.

A week or so after the initial testing we started to ask for the results. Eventually, after many phone calls and arguments with Acciona representative Kelvin Drummond who refused to give any information we received the raw data.

After a meeting with Acciona in Melbourne where we were laughed at whilst being told that "no doctor would say you could be having problems from the wind farm" I decided that I would sell my farm of 153 acres because I wasn't going to build a house or work with the headaches more than I had to.

I purchased another property near Learmonth that we thought would be far enough away. Unfortunately when the wind is coming from the west north-west I still

have problems not to the extent of waubra. We have measured the low frequency noise at Waubra and at Learmonth and we still get high readings so I still am unable to build a house safely with no threat of having problems.

In December last year my wife and I had our first child. I will not let him or my wife be subjected to the trauma that I have to go through when on our property. To this date my son has not been on our farm at Waubra or Learmonth.

The responses that we have got from the company have been appalling as we were told to prove the problem and did. The responses from the local government members state and federal have not been appropriate. They have made comments without ever being to our property or speaking to us, and on false, unproven and misleading information given to them by the wind farm companies.

Roderick Dean