

May 5th, 2015

Supplementary Submission To the Australian Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines

As noted in our submission dated February 14th 2015, the Oaklands Hill Wind Farm began operation in August 2011 and within a matter of weeks our sheep dogs became affected and my husband began to wake suddenly at night with heart palpitations and felt his heart was going to jump out of his chest. He had an exhaustive range of cardiac testing and no underlying heart problems could be found.

AGL turned nine turbines off at night for 3 years from March 2012. They told us they were going to fit dampeners to the gear boxes of the turbines to fix the 'tonality problem' and return operation to full capacity by November 2013. However this did not happen at that time but **on Wednesday night (March 25th 2015)**, the turbines **were all turned back on at night**, after being off for 3 years.

With the turbines off at night, the palpitations had subsided and we had been able to survive and work our farm. With the turbines **back on** we are again being constantly woken and in just four weeks – Thursday April 23rd 2015 - my husband was awoken at 4.10 am with the palpitations again, lasting 20 minutes. I rang the AGL complaints line stating Bill was having palpitations and that the turbines needed to be turned off. We visited our doctor the next morning.

Helena Orel from AGL rang me on the next day Friday April 24th. She gave me a complaints number and stated that no doctor had ever reported any problems to AGL. I asked who, within AGL, we ask our Doctor to speak to or write to. The attached email is AGL's reply.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Rogerson

Sandy Rogerson

From: "Jeffrey Trompf" [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 4 May 2015 4:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OHWF - AGL reference number OHWF150423

Dear Sandy and Bill

In relation to Sandy's phone call to AGL on Thursday 23 April advising that Bill had heart palpitations earlier that morning, please be advised as follows:

After further discussions regarding the opportunity for Bill's doctor to discuss the issue with someone senior within AGL, I can confirm that we do not have a practicing registered medical practitioner within our organisation, and therefore no one with the appropriate qualifications or confidentiality obligations of a registered medical practitioner for your local GP to discuss Bill's health with.

At this point I would like to separate two issues: Bill's health and Oaklands Hill wind farm.

First and foremost; Bill's health. As with any of our stakeholders, the health of our neighbours is a high priority regardless of support, indifference or opposition to our wind farms. I have instructed my staff that in the event of receiving calls advising us of immediate and serious health issues, as was the case on 23rd April, they are obliged to recommend the caller seek urgent medical assistance, including calling for an ambulance. I have also requested my staff follow up with a call to '000' to confirm this has taken place and that the appropriate urgency is applied. This call may result in my staff issuing the callers contact details to the emergency service to ensure the response is timely. We urge you again to seek medical advice in relation to the health matters you reported on April 23rd, and to gain a second opinion if needed from medical experts if you are not satisfied with your local GP. I also recommend the following website to you as it provides some important material that may be of benefit to you – particularly as it relates to urgency and the emphatic recommendation to call '000'.

<http://www.heartattackfacts.org.au/heart-attack-facts/>

Second; the wind farm. I note your concerns and ongoing opposition to the Oaklands Hill wind farm and I accept that we may never fully agree on its merits or impacts to society – locally and as a whole. Fortunately, for all of us, Australia has legitimate authorities in place to assess these merits and impacts and to recommend approaches based on substantiated legitimate research. With regard to claims of health impacts caused by its wind farms, AGL relies on the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Authority (NHMRC).

The NHMRC's purpose is to be Australia's leading expert body for supporting health and medical research; developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and governments; and, providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

The NHMRC has, in its review of February 2015 (NHMRC ref # EH570) stated in part:

'After careful consideration and deliberation of the body of evidence, NHMRC concludes that there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans.' and; 'Given the poor quality of current direct evidence and the concern expressed by some members of the community, high quality research into possible health effects of wind farms, particularly within 1,500 metres (m), is warranted.'

4/05/2015

AGL supports the approach being taken by the NHMRC and awaits the outcome of this work.

Should you require further information about this particular event or our response to it, please contact our Community Relations Manager, Helena Orel in the first instance quoting the reference number in the subject line.

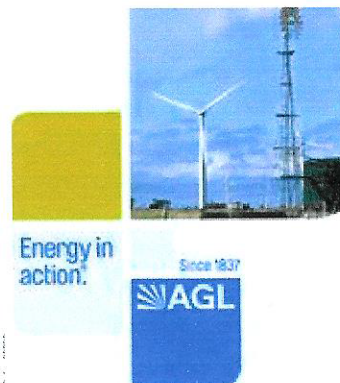
Yours sincerely

Jeff Trompf
Head of Renewables



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Read about AGL's commitment to sustainability
in our latest Sustainability Report. >

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4/05/2015