

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

To whom it may concern,
This is a submission to the Federal Senate inquiry into wind farms.

This is written in the hope of contributing to the improvement of the decisions made about establishment of wind farms, using more common sense and community decency in the decisions.

The decision making parties include; the government, the land owners, wind turbine farm developers and planners, and the lessors and lessees of the wind turbines.

My concern relates to the lack of interest shown by most, if not all, of the above mentioned parties towards the existing local residents and these local residents' concerns and preferences.

Having read part of the Panel Report, circa early 2009, pertaining to the Lal Lal & Elaine wind turbine farms, a common thread of the report appears to run along the lines of ignoring reasonable evidence, 'because it is inconclusive!' A line from the report reads: **'given inconclusive evidence we find no reason to amend current restrictions...'** this decision was re-iterated throughout the report in response to debate and evidence relating to items such as; noise made by the turbines, distance of the turbines from existing residences, height of the turbines, ice throw capability of the turbines, basically every issue raised!

ie. A layman's interpretation of these decisions could be- We, the wind farm proponents, will not

do anything we don't have to do in regards to basically anything, including; increasing minimum distances beyond 476m from turbines to existing residences, or limiting turbines to under 110m in height so as to not require night lighting.

Fair dinkum, do you, the wind farm proponents, really give a damn about surrounding residents?

Are panel reports used to just regurgitate pre-existing conditions and largely acknowledge concerns raised but DO NOTHING ABOUT IT?

Another example of shallow, careless decision making includes; the Lal Lal wind farm noise limits were determined for 2MW turbines, yet the planning panel has allowed installation of 3MW turbines.

Why does the planning authority/government allow this to happen?

Also the current acoustic standard NZS6808:1998 does not factor effects from modern larger turbines such as stable air, amplitude modulation nor low frequency noise. Allowing an inadequate outdated standard, such as this, to be used by wind farm proponents, and the planning panel, to justify construction decisions is not good enough,

not to mention it being downright proof of their lack of interest, lack of care, and lack of decency shown towards existing local residents in a proposed wind farm area.

Local evidence suggests, that one landowner, including that landowner's family and personal and related corporate and business entities, has, on their land, a large majority of the Lal Lal wind farm's proposed 54 wind turbines. Gee, isn't that interesting. One could say money speaks all languages.

Also, regarding the Lal Lal wind farm, one local family, not us, may have a wind turbine, not on their land, but within one kilometre of their home. Where is the decency with the placement of the wind turbines? The wind turbines could, and should, be at least 3 kilometres from an existing residence. If there are too many existing residences in the area, than re-locate the wind-farm to a lesser populated area. If landowners desperately want the wind turbines, and the associated leasing income, place the wind turbines closely around their home!

Finally, given local residents live a life that is common to most people, it is assumed they have limited time and resources available to: contest, debate, fight or maybe even come to a consensus with wind farm proponents, in relation to a wind farm development. The lack of transparency offered to local residents, by in our case West Wind Energy Pty Ltd has been astounding. We have been made aware of not much in relation to the Lal Lal wind farm. On contacting West Wind Energy Pty Ltd, we have been offered a reply on most occasions, but not all. Never have we received any correspondence from them without first having to ask. Recently we received a 'noise testing' letter from our local Landscape Action Group, but not from the wind farm developer.....TYPICAL!

Lets hope for all our sake, common sense, community decency and transparency to all will guide wind farm establishment decision makers in the future, because at present the local community, excluding the landowners, has no effective say at all.

Yours Faithfully,

Patrick W. Ryan