

Submission to The Senate Inquiry into The Economic and Social Impact of Rural Wind Farms

We live on Avenue Road Weatherboard. Our home faces east and Weatherboard Hill is directly behind us so we can't see or hear the windmills from our home. Never the less as soon as we set out in any direction from home the wind turbines become an imposing feature of our landscape. They are now the main feature of the Addington Hills and are unavoidable day or night.

During the day they are all we notice on the hills; by night the blinking red lights are what have replaced the night sky. When driving in certain directions the mesmerizing red lights are a real distraction and become a hazard whilst on the road.

Although they don't directly affect us in our home, we have investigated them up close and know their proximity to dwellings is an unavoidable reality with the relentless circular shadows, jet engine sounds and the blinking red night lights. These great engines are not designed as human bed fellows. They are not silent and their massive physical presence is not invisible.

The divisive nature of financially remunerating the people whose land was used for the turbines with no recompense for their neighbors who are equally affected was short sighted, it has divided a community. The careless plonking of the wind turbines into peoples lives was insensitive and has a sustained and chronic effect on the people who live in their shadow.

Sarah Lloyd and Geoff Bonney

9. 2. 2011