

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Kay Stafford (...). I am writing this letter as a letter of support for Union Fenosa wind Australia to express my view towards wind farms. I have been studying wind farms for the past 10 years after we had first been approached by a company to place turbines on our property. As a family (myself, husband and two kids) we attended the opening of Codrington wind farm in approximately 2000.

We are yet to see any bad effects from the Codrington wind farm on the families and surrounding neighbours. Many people continue to complain about multiple effects that the wind turbines provide, although we are still waiting to witness these through Codrington or any operating wind farm. Social and economic impact that is an ongoing complaint including:

- Adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms
- Concerns of excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farms which are in close proximity to people's homes
- The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income

We are still waiting to witness any of these effects.

The Macarthur pony club each year has an annual Christmas break up camp. We have a total of at least 50 members with horses who have already stayed at the Codrington wind farm site three times with their horses. Horses are able to hear many noises that humans aren't able to and the amount of horses that we had staying at the wind farm site we had no horses spook at the turbines at all, which proves that there is no problems from excessive noise or any vibrations. We camped around the turbines in trailers, swags, tents and some in a house within walking distance of the nearest turbine. We were able to easily sleep through the "excessive noise" obviously because there is none. When we first toured around the Codrington wind farm in 2000 the bus was louder than the turbines. We had to turn the bus off to actually hear the turbine and even then struggled to identify a noise. Whilst at Codrington we noted when a turbine stopped due to low wind and were unable to notice the start up as there was no noise, nor were any horses upset.

Owners of part of the Codrington wind farm (...) and their three kids have had turbines on their property for 10 yrs and have no "adverse health effects" they are all perfectly fine living happily like anyone else. We are still waiting for any adverse health effects to happen to us, having slept under them for the first time in 2004 which is now 7 years ago. No neighbours around the Codrington wind farm have been reported to have any health effects either. This is an actual operating wind farm, if there were any risks they would have shown up by now. After all of the problems I have heard from everyone else about turbines after studying them for 10yrs I wouldn't allow them on my property if they caused any effects to me or my family.

The wind farms offer great benefits to the community and to many unemployed. They provide jobs during the set up and maintenance of the turbines. The Codrington wind farm has provided an on going business for many years of tours of the wind farms and

also an onsite small shop for tourists. It has also brought many tourists to the area and has become a major attraction for many travelling past as you will see cars pulled over taking photos and even just sitting admiring them. The company has provided many funds to the community via community chest. The country will always find it hard to receive funding, so we need all the help we can get. We have expenses to cover just like everyone else in the cities. Many roads need repairing or replacing due to neglect by the politicians.

The turbines do no harm to the environment. Much has been said about effects of blade flicker and effect on the scenery, but the clouds produce the same effect and no one has suffered from cloud flicker or complained about clouds blocking the blue skies. Clouds produce the same scenario as blade flicker but people fail to notice it, they also alter the visual environment yet no one seems to complain about them. The visual environment changes everyday yet people seem to adjust to it, if you're not happy with the view you simply alter your line of sight, for this reason the building of wind farms on farmland should not be an issue to anyone. We live so far from any major city, tourist attraction and barely see any vehicles along our road apart from neighbours and the occasional visitor. Majority of the people in our area have signed for turbines to go on their properties. We are the only people who have to look at them each day and obviously we're all prepared to do that. They use a renewable source of energy and produce electricity. They are much more efficient than the two proposed gas power stations in our area. We are quite happy to have the turbines on our farms which produce no pollution and harm to our health compared to the pollution produced by the power stations in the area which pollutes our drinking water which may lead to health problems.

As a family we inherited the farm from my husband's father in 1987. Since then we have experienced a major wool crash since 1990 and it has not improved. The Sheep and Beef prices have not reflected the true cost of production. Since we have changed from merino to fat lamb it has taken until now to manage to receive a decent lamb price. We have spent many years running on a loss of income and have not been able to pay the debt incurred from the wool crash in 1990. Typical return to the farmer of 5% and yet cost to borrow money in excess of 10%, the viability of farming has not improved with lack of support from politicians. There is a distinct lack in banks supporting family farms, who expect a turn around in 12 months. We look to the turbines to improve our viability, to assist us in paying back our debts, drought proof our property, improve our breeding and pasture, allow us to educate our daughter through university. For many years we have encouraged our children not to take on farming as a career because of the expenses compared to the income and the lack of support from politicians.

The wind farms provide the farmer with a constant income each year which helps them to cover their costs and also helps them secure their equity for loans against financial institutions via evictions. We believe as owners of a farm that we should be able to farm what we wish to and to farm something that will provide us with an income. No one gets the chance to have objections to farmers placing dairies on their farm's which also breeds many flies, yet people believe they are allowed to object to an income on our farm? A lot of the objections are coming from people that don't live in the area and people who are conscientious objectors. We definitely do not want to see nuclear energy power in our

area, why even bother to consider nuclear when there is wind energy available which is cleaner anyway?

You are willing to use the energy but won't allow anyone to produce it? Where's all the energy going to come from? All of the natural disasters lately which will increase if nothing changes, wind energy is a chance to change, a chance to help. You will regret it on a hot day with no air conditioner because of the lack of power.

We have been producing food all this time, yet if we are pushed out the food production will decline dramatically in this area as corporate farmers have failed to produce sufficient amounts of food.

We've been on the land since 1958 and we would like to continue our living on this property, please consider this letter as our heart felt feeling from our whole family. We stand to lose everything if turbines don't save us.

Thank you for reading,
Yours Sincerely,

Kay Stafford Bill Stafford Aleesa Stafford Damian Stafford
9/02/2011