

Mr Steven & Mrs Hilary L Gallina
(...)

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Wed 9th Feb 2011

Parliament of Australia
Senate

Submission

Submission in relation to the following matter referred to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 30th April 2011.

The social and economic impacts of rural wind farms, and in particular:

- (a) Any adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind farms;
- (b) Concerns over the excessive noise and vibrations emitted by wind farm, which are in close proximity to people's homes.
- (c) The impact of rural wind farms on property values, employment opportunities and farm income;
- (d) The interface between Commonwealth, state and local planning laws as they pertain to wind farms; and
- (e) Any other relevant matters.

I am a 50 year old male and My wife also 50 and I and three children moved to Waubra on 20 Jan 1997 into our new home and life that we started to build back in 1985. We had no objection to the wind farm as we were assured that turbines do not make much noise and will not harm our health. I am now convinced that these turbines do indeed pose a serious health risk and walking away without a fight is not happening.

On April 22nd at 4 am I suffered a heart attack and to date I have been continually suffering blood pressure issues, heart palpitations, head aches, dizziness, nausea, unbearable tinnitus, and disrupted sleep patterns that led to numerous ambulance trips to hospital. My wife also has experienced head aches disrupted sleep patterns etc.

We have a least six turbines 1.7 km to the south west that are just visually obscured by the topography of a small hill but we can hear them even in our bedroom at night. We have another two turbines 1.8 km to the west that are equally as audible but clearly visible as another 12 turbines to the north on Big Hill 2 km away and a further 12 visible to the south east.

The Policy and Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Generating Facilities in Victoria is flawed or open to interpretation as when we became aware that Acciona Energy were planning a viewing area directly in front of our new investment property We promptly joined in on the CRG, (community reference group), meetings to have a say in something that directly affected us. We were led to believe that the viewing area would not have an elevated platform with views into our home. It Does. We were led to believe that plantation screening would protect our privacy. It Does Not.

All this happened whilst during and after I had my heart attack and could do nothing whilst I was recovering and the final insult came when we had an onsite meeting with Acciona's Community Relations Coordinator, Ms Genevieve Bowyer and two colleagues when she stated "**just because you raise a matter at a CRG meeting does not mean it is going to be adopted in the plans**" is in direct contradiction to a provision in the mentioned guidelines that states proponents are to "**talk to surrounding land owners about the proposal and issues of importance to them**". We are still awaiting a review on this matter with the Department of planning and Community Development.

There has been a noticeable amount of properties on the market in Waubra since 2009 that have failed to sell within a reasonable time frame, over 90 to 200 days plus in some cases, and when they did they sold for up to \$ 50,000 below the asking/advertised price.

This is no doubt a situation that has been dividing our lovely community from the very beginning of this project and the main contention from the supporters of the proponents of wind farms like Waubra seems to be that we are all just a bunch of moaners that are disgruntled at the fact that we are not getting any share of the pie. The fact is we are not all motivated by money as I am personally aware of some rather affluent long standing decent residents of Waubra that don't need or want the money.

Thank you

Steven and Hilary Gallina