

William K.G. Palmer P. Eng.
TRI-LEA-EM RR 5

February 8, 2015

Commissioner Susan Pascoe AM,
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
GPO Box 5108
Melbourne, VIC 3001
Australia

Via E Mail -

Copy to: advice@acnc.gov.au
Copy to: Sarah Laurie, Waubra Foundation

Subject: Feedback to ACNC Regarding Charitable Status of Waubra Foundation

Dear Commissioner Pascoe:

Following reading details on the website of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission noting your request for feedback and improvements to your service, I prepared this brief note of feedback hoping it may be considered.

I note that the ACNC has ruled that the Waubra Foundation is not a Health Promotion Charity, possibly as part of the campaign underway to “clean-up” the National Charity Register. As a Canadian, I note to you that the Canada Revenue Agency also has an ongoing program to attempt to remove the charitable foundation status of organizations who function primarily as political activist groups, but without actually helping those individuals those organizations are purported to aid. I fully support removal of the charitable status from organizations for whom the primary beneficiary seems to be the officers and staff of the organization. However, for at least four years now, I have been in contact with Dr. Sarah Laurie of the Waubra Foundation over shared concerns, and it is my firm observation that the Waubra Foundation exists to help people suffering since wind power developments occurred in their neighbourhood. I would ask you to reconsider the removal of the Charitable status from the Waubra Foundation, as they are doing good and important work, helping those who are and will suffer adverse effects from wind turbines.

My background is as a Professional Engineer, and from experience gained in a career dealing with public safety, I was drawn to research the issues surrounding wind turbines. As my experience in this area developed over the last 10 or so years, I could not help observing that there was an official climate of silence, and refusal to

acknowledge harm done to people. As my research moved from public safety risk from purely mechanical aspects (falling turbines, blade failures, fires and the like) to the subject of harm from other aspects I have had the opportunity to speak face-to-face with over 75 individuals whom I see as neither malcontents nor misguided. In words of one degree or another, a great many of these individuals have said to me, "Bill, we just cannot live in our home since the wind turbines started up, please can you not do something?" I must admit that as I listened to their words, the words of another rang in my ears. Luke 10:37 ends the parable Jesus told of the "Good Samaritan." It ends with Jesus telling the one who came to question him as to who is a neighbour, with the words to "Go and do likewise" ... to help the one harmed even if he or she was not an immediate neighbour.

In my best attempt to "go and do likewise" I have furthered my education about the issues, and have devoted all my available time to producing and delivering papers, and doing my best to bring understanding to those who are responsible to make decisions. I have found there are reasons for the adverse effects people are facing. I have attached with this letter three specific documents that I hope you may have a chance to glance at as you consider the appeal of the Waubra Foundation. These three papers are ones presented to peers:

1. at the International Acoustical Congress in 2013, and documented in the Proceedings of the Meetings on Acoustics of the Acoustical Society of America which provides a summary of harm done to individuals
2. at the fall meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in 2014, which documented a technical reason for the problems people were having following the erection of wind turbines in their area – which is currently undergoing peer review before issuance in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
3. which has been submitted and will be presented at the 6th International Meeting on Wind Turbine Noise in Glasgow, Scotland in 2 months (a pre-presentation copy for your information.)

Ms. Pascoe, my research has confirmed in my mind that there are reasons for the adverse health impacts faced by these people, and I am equally convinced that the Waubra Foundation in Australia is doing it's best to fulfill the words Jesus gave in Luke 10:37 – they are "going and doing likewise" to help those harmed, and the support received through their charitable foundation is doing good work. Please reconsider, and restore the charitable status to the Waubra Foundation to permit them to do their best.

With respect,

William K.G. Palmer P. Eng.

Attachments:

1. Wind turbine sound prediction – the consequence of getting it wrong, presented by William Palmer at International Congress on Acoustics, June 2013
2. Room modes – a predictor of wind turbine annoyance, presented by William Palmer to Acoustical Society of America, October, 2014, Indianapolis Meeting, as submitted for peer review for inclusion in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
3. Wind Turbines – A Changed Environment, to be presented by William Palmer to the 6th International Meeting on Wind Turbine Noise, April 2015, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom