



To the Secretary, Senate Committee on Wind farms

I have a number of concerns about wind farms. My concerns are negative effects on health, excessive noise levels, the risk of a fire breaking out in a turbine and the planning process that is biased towards the wind farm developer.

Wind farms are having a negative effect on the health of people living near them. From stories across our country and the world wind farms are causing sleep problems, high blood pressure, head aches, depression and more. Many of these people welcomed wind farms to their area and now they are suffering.

I am concerned about the noise that wind farms make. People describe it as the sound of a train that never arrives, a jet overhead etc. This noise often wakes people at night which then results in lack of concentration and irritability.

The noise that wind farms make that you cannot hear, such as infrasound, is believed to cause the health problems as mentioned above. Infrasound needs to be investigated further as these health affects are very serious.

I am also concerned about the risk of turbines catching fire. The wind farm operator at Waubra, Acciona, has said that they will let turbines burn out if there is a fire as the height of the turbines make it difficult to fight safely. Fire fighters at one turbine fire in South Australia had to wait one kilometre away due to the risk of blades flying off the towers. In this country the possibility of a fire left to burn is of great concern.

Finally the planning process for wind farms in the state of Victoria is a complete farce. The acoustic guidelines are 13 years old and developers are refusing to replace it with the 2010 updated version.

While local residents get to voice their concerns they are routinely ignored by planning panels who are biased towards the wind farm developer. Guidelines are so inadequate they provide little protection to locals who are overwhelmed by expert witnesses, solicitors for the wind farm companies and the planning process itself.

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