

Submission No: 37

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2007 4:31 PM
To: Committee, ISR (REPS)
Subject: Subission on wind power facility ay Bald Hills.

Dear Sirs. Thankyou for the opportunity to present my experiences in the long and bitter campaign to halt the Bald Hills Wind Farm.

Early in 2001 a German wind prospecting company offered me about \$140,000 per annum to host a wind farm and I declined ,telling them "if you live in paradise why would you stuff it" and they left.At that stage I had very little knowledge of the wind industry and no particular leanings one way or the other, soon word got out about the Bald Hills Wind Farm (BHWF) and I became concerned about the lack of community involvement in the process.I was elected onto the "South Gippsland Shire Wind Advisory Committee" and began to familiarise myself with the industry.The main issues that arise are.1.Lack of community input.2.The fact that one who hosts a wind farm get a perceived economic gain while the neighbour loses amenity and their property is devalued.3.The divisiveness in a previously close knit community.4.The loss of amenity from noise, bladeflicker and the destruction of the landscape.5.By far the biggest issue however is that wind energy facilities do not do what they claim, they have the appearance of being environmentally friendly but do very little to reduce emission and cost the society a great deal.For example Toora wind Farm in 5.years of operation is yet to produce 25%of installed capacity and Wonthaggi was operating at only19% before 1 of their turbines broke down.

On a personal level my wife has stated she will leave the area if BHWF is constructed as we would be able see them out our kitchen window and my 84 year old mother who would also have a good view of them has stated she would move having lived here since 1948.

In short the local community has been ripped apart by this proposal that has cost us nearly\$100,000 to fight and that is only the cash cost I suspect the real figure if time and effort were factored in would be about \$350,000 and that does not include lost production on our farms.Why should a small community like ours have to bear this sort of a cost just because Government fails to provide adequate guidelines,a cost I might add that is destined to be incurred over and over by small communities all across the country

Thankyou Don Jelbart