

**Submission
No 96**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

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SENATE INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

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Whether or not the current changing climate is man-made or natural, I don't believe that smothering the planet with invasive noisy wind factories, is going to achieve sufficient benefit to warrant the damage they inflict on health, landscape, social harmony, and financial resources.

My prime concerns are as follows:

1/ Wind factories are a health hazard.

Dr. Amanda Harry wrote a report in 2007 - "Wind Turbines, Noise and Health", which surveyed affected people living near wind factories in NZ, Australia, America, and Europe. A recent segment in "A Current Affair" (14/08/09) also confirmed the devastation and sleep deprivation caused by wind factories. Have any studies been made on the effect of low frequency noise pollution and sleep deprivation on domestic animals, wildlife and dogs? Why not? How does the consumption of stressed livestock affect humans?

2/ As yet there is no mention of fair compensation for affected neighbours of wind factories;

a) For devalued property b) Relocation c) Health issues - as distinct from the occasional financial "incentives" gifted by the wind industry to the nearest town. If turbine hosts find they cannot live near turbines, they may afford to become absentee landholders. Not so their hapless neighbours. In Europe, at least, the income received by hosts is shared amongst near neighbours, (Stock and Land: "Land Values Blown Apart" - 13/11/08).

3/ Permanent impact of wind factories in inappropriate landscapes

Would you allow a wind factory on "Uluru"? There are so many powerfully special places that have already been spoiled by human industry, and so many more that should be preserved. I fear the wind industries' (indeed the Governments') fervent, and unseemly haste to commit indiscriminate proliferation of wind factories around the nation, before this whole AGW and compromised Government directed Climate Change Science is finally discredited as a cynical revenue raising and manipulative exercise.

If anyone is REALLY SERIOUS about mitigating NATURAL CLIMATE CHANGE, they would be legislating incentives to curb population explosion, as well as incentives to live realistically sustainable lives, and curbing pollution in general.

4/ How can we safely fight fires in a "pin-cushioned" landscape of wind factories? When the turbines themselves are ablaze?

Air support will be severely restricted in fighting fires where wind factories are installed. Burning, spinning turbine blades risk spreading fire further, endanger and hinder the efforts of ground crew - there is a lot of oil in those turbines. They also start fires. Who will be liable for fires started by wind turbines?

5/ What safeguards against blackouts in a heatwave, when there's no wind ?

Such as South Australia experienced when everyone turned on their air-conditioners....Victoria and NSW are poised to build more coal fired power stations....no wind factories have enabled any coal plants to close.....and never will. **Fast track Geothermal (Hot Rocks)**, if anything, as that and Hydro, Solar Thermal, Gas and Wave Renewable Energy have Base Load capabilities - Wind factories are a costly, highly debatable "Bang-for-Buck" extravagance, only ever producing on average, 30% capacity - a very dubious net return.

6/ After the wind-turbine holocaust.....

Wind factories are not going to stop the climate changing. What they will do is:

- a) Reduce safe passage for migratory birds, and reduce viable stress-free habitat for wildlife (ie; low-frequency noise free zones).
- b) Reduce quiet havens for exploding populations of humans who seek essential recreation, and viable habitable rural lifestyles.
- c) Increase stress related illness among those living near wind turbines. This will place more pressure on a struggling health system.
- d) Adversly affect productivity and well-being among individuals and communities.
- e) Cause deep resentments and anger amongst neighbours and families, dividing once closeknit communities.
- f) Desecrate the iconic beauty, peaceful ambience of vast tracts of unique and special landscape, NEEDLESSLY.

After all that, how much CO2 is going to be reduced?....Will it really matter? It seems there was oodles of CO2 in the atmosphere of the last Ice Age! Warming/cooling ...Which is it?.....Is the earth shifting on its' axis....stumbled into another orbit around the Sun?.....Or that the magnetic pull of "sunspots" have altered.....Gosh, scope for another TAX here somewhere!

Yes, we do need to address a changing climate, we do need to address an exploding population on a finitely resourced planet. We need to preserve an organically sustainable agriculture, we need to invest in renewable energy that works with a better net contribution than insidious wind farms. We need thoughtful consumerism and manufacture, we need less waste, less landfill, and less deceit.

Thankyou.

Submitted by : Michaela Samman -