

Submission  
No 28

## INQUIRY INTO RURAL WIND FARMS

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Inquiry into rural wind farms

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

That General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 inquire into and report on the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits of rural wind farms, and in particular:

Dear Sir/Madam:

I wasn't going to submit this to your enquiry as we the rural residential community are not taken into account when a wind farm is proposed. When we were asked to comment on this windfarm application we did so.

We all put in our submissions but then you get the people for the development who will not be impacted upon put there submissions in and they outweigh the people who will be impacted on so the wind farm goes ahead.

We suffer not them and even when we asked our questions the response was we would not be impacted upon.

We have invited anyone who wants to hear the noise to come out but as the noise is more evident at night they don't want to come

the nocturnal inversion layer is possibly the reason for the night time impact and this can be viewed on <http://www.springrange.org.au/taranoise.pdf> this shows why the SA noise guidelines should not be used when windfarms are situated in the Canberra/southern tablelands as the noise will be underestimated.

We have a very low background noise out here at night so the impact to us re noise is far more than someone living in a city or suburb.

1. The role of utility-scale wind generation in:
  - a. reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated by electricity production
  - b. producing off peak and base load power
2. Locating rural wind farms to optimise wind resource use and minimise residential and environmental impacts

I live on an adjoining property to the Capital Wind Farm and my house is 2.4km away from the nearest turbine.

All the issues we raised in our objections and which was dismissed by Planning and The wind Farm Proponents dismissed has proven to be correct.

We have had our lives and business turned upside down with out of hours construction noise. Their response is, I am sorry we didn't think you would hear it, but again the same thing happens repeatedly. I even ended up in hospital with a suspected broken neck one week and the next jumped on by a colt at 7.10a. due to the sudden noise coming from the windfarm in out of approved construction hours after they assured us there would be no noise before 8.00am on the Saturday. We didn't sue we just complained.

There is no conditions imposed on the commissioning phase as like the construction and operating phase so we are left in limbo coping this noise while they chase their tales trying to work out the problem, solution turn them off when the noise is being heard. It only takes a few minutes. but this is so simple for them to grasp.

Now Commissioning has started we can't get a night's sleep with the constant humming and whishing of the turbines. It is in your face and at times when you lay down it comes through the pillow. At times we can't sit in our kitchen to eat our meals due to the turbine noise. Their answer is to supply tubestock to landscape. We have 60 year old pine trees and can still hear the noise even though their noise modelling said we wouldn't. Nights are the worst and it is really affecting us as we are tired all the time.

We had noise testing done and the environment representative came to visit and I believe he didn't think he would hear any noise, but he did hear it and confirmed what we have complained about and been putting up with..

Still no action to stop the noise after 4 weeks.

Double glazing trees sound proofing were all suggested but as we work outside on our 30 acre property we can't escape inside the house to escape the noise. We have to work or just give up our lives work and go on the dole. We are self supporting hard working and we would like to be treated with respect and to have this noise stopped. Yes they will have to turn them off to fulfill this request but we didn't ask for it and we don't want it.

### 3. The impact of rural wind farms on property values

Values suggestive. Who would want to buy a country place when you couldn't use the outside due to turbine noise. You might as well stay in the city and live inside your home. It is impossible to say whether property values will decrease due to the fact, no one would buy out here due to the noise. So really you have property values versus unsellable properties.

### 4. Mechanisms for encouraging local ownership and control of wind technology

5. The potential role of energy generated by rural wind farms in relation to the Australian Government's proposed Renewable Energy Target

### 6. Any other relevant matter.

Basically people are for windfarms. It is just the siting of these windfarms that are the problem. Noise modules are done by companies and when there is a noise problem who tests for it, the same people who did the modelling in the first place. The company doing the testing at our places couldn't even recognise the turbine noise even though they could hear it themselves.

Even if they did know that the noise is coming from the turbines why are they going to admit it when it would leave them open to being sued by the windfarm for loss of income/expenses because they got it wrong.

Local knowledge knew this would happen and they were told years ago this problem would arise but they didn't listen to us.

Noise testing should be done by another company that did not have anything to do with the initial modelling and if this was put into place the modelling would be done more accurately so as to avoid problems further down the track.

There is no accountability.

We have made many complaints but most of them go unanswered. We are just the little people and our quality of life doesn't matter as long as the targets are achieved. What do they care about.

We can't even operate 50% of our business as we can't use most of our property due to the risks involved either by construction, turbine noise or distraction from the movement of the blades. Maybe common sense will prevail one day and the impacts will be considered for rural neighbouring residences of wind farms.