

Submission to Senate

Excessive noise from wind farms

Dear Senators,

My name is Roderick Dean and I used to own a property at Waubra. My parents, with whom I am in business with, still own property within 1.5 Km of the wind farm which I still have to work on. Working on this property is extremely difficult for me due to the headaches and ear pain proven to be caused by the low frequency noise which I experience whilst on the property and which often remains for days after. This noise has been measured at extremely high levels. Some days the audible noise from the farm is also extremely annoying, making it difficult to work. I have complained about these issues on numerous occasions and have since stopped writing complaints because they were never followed up. I sold my own Waubra property about 3 years ago after I started to get headaches when working at Waubra. At the time, myself and my father went to Melbourne and were laughed and told that "no doctor will ever say that the wind farm was causing the problems". After making complaints and going public about the problems, it became clear that anyone who came out and talked about the problems they were experiencing due to the wind farms, received letters from lawyers aimed at intimidation.

The excessive noise has caused me and my family a great deal of pain and inconvenience. This was not only because we could no longer run our farm properly due to the annoyance and health problems caused, but also because my parents couldn't live in their home. I will not let my son and my wife near the wind farm as I do not want them also getting sick from the wind farm, which is hard as it is a family farm. I had to deal with not being able to work as much due to headaches and I was reluctant to go out to the farm at Waubra as after time away from the wind farm my headaches went away.

As the wind farm company has publicly admitted that they have not complied at Waubra and they have not been able to prove compliance at our properties at Waubra we have been living in hope and limbo for the past 3 years. The local council and the state government have not enforced compliance.

As I have a young family and due to the anger and frustration I have experienced as a result of our issues, my parents and I decided to sell most of our farm at Waubra. This was a difficult decision as it was a profitable and prosperous farm prior to our inability to effectively work on it due to the excessive noise. It is upsetting for all of us that we had to sell the property that my parents had worked so hard for, and through no fault of our own.

The excessive noise has caused me and my family extreme health, emotional and financial problems. The financial pressure that we have been under is due to not being able to live on and work our farm to its full potential, as well as the substantial costs involved in relocating our business.

The bullying tactics are used to intimidate anyone who complains and the government and council has let them get away with this for over 3 ½ years. It appears that neither the government nor council are willing to take responsibility for ensuring compliance with planning permits and wind farm regulations. In light of this I cannot understand why it is still allowed to be operating. I think it is time for the federal police to get involved to investigate whether there is corruption. The only other

explanation is the people in charge are incompetent or simply do not care that they have ruined people's lives and businesses.

Roderick Dean