

Hi Everyone,

I live next door to the Elaine section of the Lal Lal wind farm, just out of Ballarat. I thought you might like to know what it is really like to live next door to a wind farm. We are south of the wind farm, with the closest turbine 1.7km from our home and 3 others less than 2km. There are 22 turbines in this section!

When we have a northerly or north westerly, which is the majority of the time all year, we can most definitely hear the turbines. Sometimes we can just hear them and other days we can not stay at home. This was very difficult to get away from this year with lockdowns.

We are unable to sleep most nights, we can not open our house up on warm days, sometimes we have to turn our TV up for the noise (our family room does not face the wind farm). We can no longer enjoy our outdoor living area, because of the noise. I hear you have been told the turbines will sound like the ocean, this is a massive lie. The turbines sound like a freight train that never goes past or a 747 over your house. And sometimes you will also hear the swoosh as the blades rotate.

Some of the health issues we experience:

- Sleep deprivation
- Anxiety/depression
- Loss of coordination and concentration
- Insomnia
- ringing in the ears
- Chest pains
- Weight gain

Note that our turbines have been turned off for the last approx. 9 weeks. All health issues have resolved or significantly reduced. We were not against the wind farm, In fact we have been contractors on 3 of them. But now we are totally against them.

The noise is not the only problem, dealing with the wind farm is horrendous. Firstly I have not met a landholder that has turbines on their place, that would ever do it again, no matter how much money! Those wishing to have turbines on their place I strongly encourage you to speak to current wind farm hosts.

We put our first complaint in within the first 2 weeks of the wind farm starting. Dealing with the wind farm is like dealing with a bully. They refuse to take our complaints seriously. They put a noise logger at our home, but because no pre construction noise testing was done on our side of the wind farm (even though our side of the wind farm was most likely to be affected by noise issues), the results were muddled with other sites and averaged to give, Yep you guessed it great results! They have refused to give us the results for just our place. We have asked for testing to be done now, as the turbines are turned off, but they are refusing!

The planning process is extremely questionable and basically the government are choosing money and face over the health and well-being of rural Australians.

I encourage you to really research wind energy! I can recommend you watch on Youtube Head wind and Down wind. While these are overseas, it's the same companies in Oz and the issues are all exactly the same as we are experiencing.

I'm more than happy to answer any questions and when the turbines are back on (apparently the 25th of Nov) anyone is more than welcome to come listen for yourself!

Simmie Lewie, November 11, 2021

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