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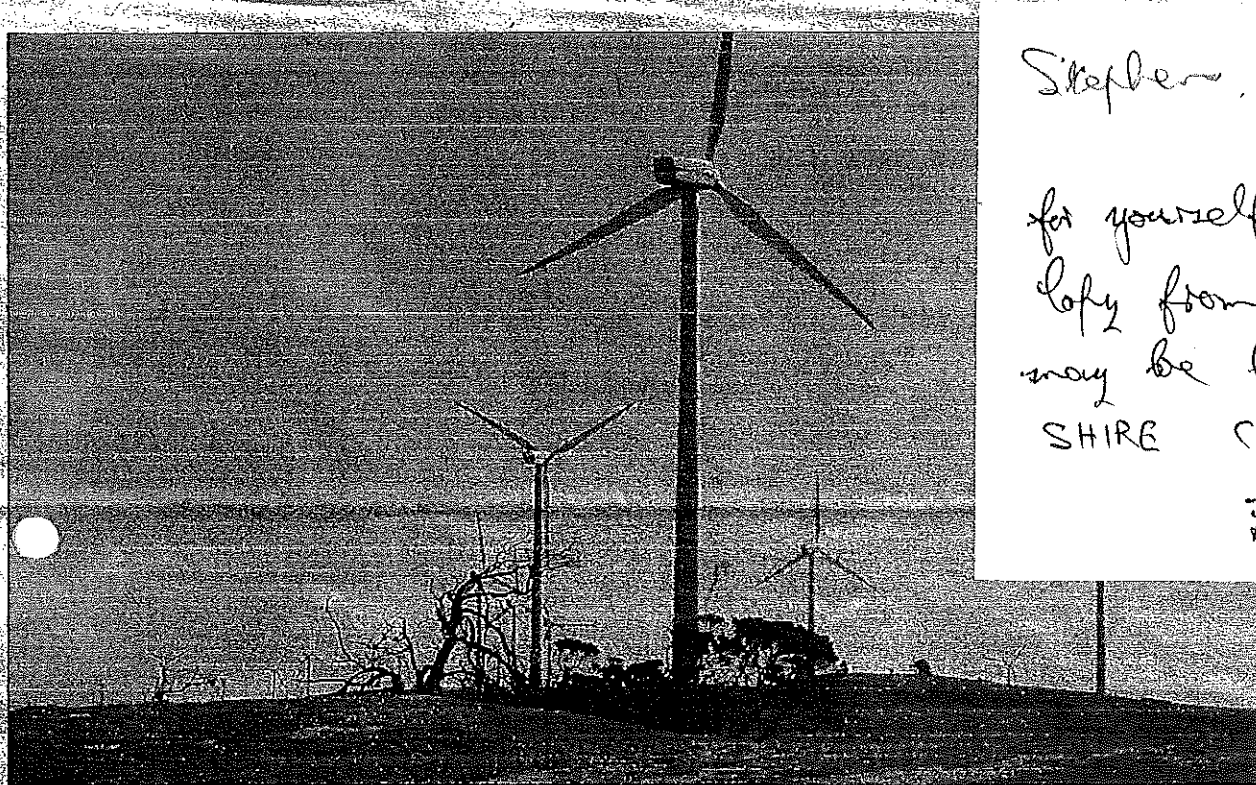
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B/Watch 23/2/11

NEWS 5



Stephen, 15 MAR 2011  
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 Frank.

**STANDING FIRM:** Grant District Council has refused to give into pressure to withdraw its support for the proposed Allendale East Wind Farm development.

Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE

# Council rejects wind farm appeal



ANELIA BLACKIE

Small text below name, likely contact info.

DISTRICT Council of Grant has refused to give in under pressure from residents to withdraw from the court appeal hearing in Adelaide tomorrow against approval of the proposed Allendale East Wind Farm.

Botten Levinson lawyer George Manos, who represents Allendale East resident Richard Paltridge in the appeal against the development in the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court, requested in a letter last week that council urgently review its support for the controversial development.

Mr Paltridge lodged an appeal in March last year against a decision by council's independent Development Assessment Panel to approve the \$175m wind farm.

Acting on behalf of "new" clients - a group of residents in Allendale East and Eight Mile Creek - Mr Manos

requested council's chief executive officer Russell Peate call an urgent council meeting to review its position and withdraw support before the appeal hearing resumes in Adelaide this week.

Mr Manos asked that council no longer support the wind farm or its decision to grant development plan consent to Acciona Energy's application to establish the project and to notify the ERD Court that council did not wish to be heard any further in relation to the appeal.

"My clients are of the view that as representatives of the community, the council has an obligation to take into consideration the matters raised and act in accordance with the views of the now clearly more properly informed community that will be impacted on by the proposed wind farm," Mr Manos wrote.

But Mr Peate refused to budge under the pressure and declined Mr Manos request to convene a special meeting in a letter from Norman Waterhouse lawyer Peter Psaltis.

Acting on behalf of council, Mr Psaltis said in his letter to Mr

Manos it was "unreasonable to invite council at this late stage to reverse its position" and withdraw from the court proceedings.

"Even if council did withdraw from active participation in proceedings, it would with respect be unlikely to alter the ultimate outcome of the case, whatever that might be," Mr Psaltis wrote.

"If council withdraw from the proceedings now, evidence called in council's case will remain before the court."

Meanwhile, in an ordinary council meeting on Monday evening, Mr Peate indicated council could not withdraw its support for the development as it was impartial in its support.

"Council does not support the applicant nor the appellant, but simply the decision of council's independent Development Assessment Panel (to approve the wind farm development)," Mr Peate said.

"Our solicitor is not supporting the development (in the ERD court), he is supporting the Development Assessment Panel."

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MRC	MCS	MFA	EC of HC	CEO
PR	COPO	MW	SFO	GR
		PLAN	MHM	

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blatch 24/2/11

## Time left to halt Allendale wind farm development

ALOT has been said about the wind farms, but what has been concerning myself is what has not been said.

If you ask people what they think of wind farms going up, their initial response is "it has to be good, cheaper power for us and greener for the environments".

What they don't realise is that all the power from these farms is not staying in South Australia - it's all going to New South Wales.

We get no benefit at all from them being on our landscape.

The only people who gain are the landowners who get their \$9000 a tower.

Environmentally, the amount of infrastructure it takes to develop these farms far outweighs their green image - imagine the amount of concrete and steel that go into one of these.

The Acciona experts tell us there are no ill health effects by living next to these towers.

Tell this to the families who have had to move away from their homes because of various health problems after these towers go up.

They say they are not noisy.

Why have they had to purchase up to 14 homes which boundary onto these farms?

What they don't say is how it kills off the towns they surround, people have to move away because of the health effects, property values have dropped between

30 and 50pc so they can't sell their homes.

There will certainly be no new homes going up.

Would you move to an area with towers higher than Mount Shank as your view?

Most of the other wind farms are in isolated areas not as highly populated as Allendale - the homes that are there are on the properties of people who have towers on their land.

What frustrates me the most is that we have no choice on whether they go ahead or not.

It doesn't seem right that at the moment we live in a peaceful place with a beautiful outlook and if these towers go ahead, we will have 32 towers 140 metres high within 2km of our boundary.

When you talk to the council and Acciona it's the same response - why didn't you voice your concerns before?

Well that's simple - we didn't know enough about them.

We are now learning from other peoples' experiences, not just what Acciona were telling us, that is the people they did tell.

Why did they do a survey of 140 people with only 11 from the Allendale area?

Why ask people who live 50km away?

Why didn't they say the power from the farms was all going into NSW

would they have got the same response?

The independent committee who gave their approval - where did they get their information from?

I bet it was all from Acciona and not the people who have had to live next door to these farms.

They keep saying there is only one man who is against the farms.

Well there are more than 150 people who are now really concerned about their families health and future.

The council should have a responsibility to families in their area, hear their concerns, ask themselves would they like to bring up their kids next to wind turbines and have their land devalued.

Someone has to fight for us.

Yes, you thought it was a good idea two years ago, but listen now to people's concerns.

You say it's too late - it's now up to the courts.

No it's not - there aren't any towers up yet.

You say our homework on these towers will help the next community fight against these things, but it's too late for us.

That to me is rubbish.

Get more proactive and do your own research, withdraw your support and look after your community.

John and Karen Hunt,  
Eight Mile Creek

## STREET SWEEPER

B/Watch 17/2/10

# Ratepayers take development opposition to wind farm inquiry

ANELIA  
BLACKIE

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THE battle to stop the proposed wind farm development at Allendale East has continued.

Ratepayers making a submission to the Federal Senate Inquiry into wind farms.

Statutory declarations from more than 150 ratepayers in Allendale East and Eight Mile Creek accompanied their submission to the inquiry in objection to the proposed \$175m development, while council lodged a submission in favour of the project before the closing date on February 10.

Family First Party leader Senator Steve Fielding last year initiated the Senate Inquiry in parliament into the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms.

The inquiry will investigate a range of issues, including health effects for people living close to wind farms, concerns over the noise and vibrations emitted by wind turbines, employment opportunities and the impact on property values before releasing a report by April 30.

Residents claimed in their submission that the proposed development close to their homes had the potential to adversely impact on their health and the value of their properties and that it would spoil the views they enjoy of a pristine landscape, according to a spokesman for the Concerned Residents Action Group.

"We also raised concerns over the lack of consultation with the community on the development," he said.

"We believe that council has been misled by the actual level of consultation that was conducted and that figures were manipulated to give the impression that the support (for the development) was there."



**SENATE INQUIRY:** More than 150 residents in Allendale East and Eight Mile Creek have made a joint submission to the Senate inquiry into wind farms in objection to the proposed development, with 46 turbines close to their properties. They claim turbines would be too close to their homes, unlike the Lake Bonney Wind Farm (pictured), where turbines are further away from houses. Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE

The spokesman said although council claimed that only one resident objected to the development, they had gathered more than 150 signatures from residents who objected.

"All the numbers of people coming out now shows they have not done proper data collection and that the consultation process was flawed," he said.

"We don't want the wind farm here - they keep comparing it to the Lake Bonney and Camunda Wind Farm where it's not densely populated like here."

With reference to the findings

of various health reports, council claimed in its submission to the inquiry that there was "no evidence that wind turbines have an adverse impact on human health."

Council also referred to concerns that the wind farm could devalue neighbouring properties.

"The effect of any development on property values is not an existing relevant consideration under council's development plan," the submission read.

There is no statutory basis to take into account the potential

effect on property values of a wind farm."

However, council suggested in its submission there should be "better uniformity and consistency" across Australia in how state and local governments process wind farm development applications.

"In doing so, there would be a need for it to be appropriately legislated so that it can be legally used when considering such applications, particularly if these applications are the subject of appeals or court actions," it read.

B/Watch 17/2/11

# Wind farm generates environmental concern

**POTENTIAL** unintended consequence of the Allendale East wind farm has been raised recently in a statutory declaration from an adjacent landowner. Measurable changes in local climates have been recorded around wind farms and up until now these modifications to the environment have been viewed as either positive or inconsequential. Recent research has uncovered greater detail that the mixing of the air, as a consequence of turbine rotor movement, can affect the environment downstream of the turbines.

The impact of these changes on the local farming operations surrounding the wind farm needs to be understood as there is a potential for irrigation requirements to increase.

There are many aspects to consider when trying to establish likely outcomes.

Wind direction, wind speed, turbulence, radiation, temperature and humidity are some of the main factors and because their relative interaction is site specific, generalisations are likely to be misleading in their conclusions and relevance, hence investigations need to be carried

out around the wind farm site. It is perhaps not surprising that up until now the question of incompatibility between wind farms and dairying has not been raised.

This point was reiterated by the planner Jenni Nolan in her assessment of any adverse impacts in the ERD Court Paltridge appeal late last year in that she had no evidence to suggest incompatibility, which begs the question - has a wind farm ever been constructed with similar agricultural characteristics and farming systems as Allendale East for comparison?

The dairy farms around Allendale East and surrounding the wind farm carry about 6000 cows and are on some of the most productive and intensively farmed land in the district.

Their viability is dependent on growing as much feed as possible from irrigated pasture.

With 35 centre pivots in the wind farm 2km buffer zone, local farmers already bracing themselves for at least 30pc cuts in irrigation water have every right to be concerned.

**Will Nixon,  
Allendale East landowner**



**PROJECT FANS FEARS:** Concerns continue to surface about wind farms as the Allendale East project generates debate. Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE

B/Watch Feb 2011

# Development plan divides community

THESE wind farms that are proposed to go up in Allendale are starting to divide the local community, mainly, I believe, due to either false or one-sided information about the environmental and health effects on people who live in the vicinity of these monstrosities.

For people who want to know what we are so concerned about, go for a drive from Kongorong towards Tantanoola.

Go into these wind farms, get out for half an hour and then make an informed decision - ask yourself, would I like to live 1km from these towers?

If you had a nice block you purchased out in the country, would you be happy if these companies came in and alapped these things up, destroying your views and any chance of re-selling your property, never mind the health issues your family will face?

What happens when one of the towers catches fire and you have to watch your property burn because the GPS can't get within 1km of these towers. When these towers have passed their use-by-date in 25 years, will they be taken down or stay obsolete for the next 100 years or so?

Yes, they are okay to drive past, but would I want my family to live under one?

I for one don't get a good feeling from these companies who buy their way into communities.

Yes, they will give money to local schools and halls and to the landholder (many whom don't live on the property), yes they will give you \$9000 a year for

50 square meters of land - it's hard to say no.

They say they have given every opportunity for people to express their concerns, but out of the letters they sent out, only 11 were sent out to Allendale where these things are going up.

What is the point of sending them out to people who are not directly affected?

They say they are going to reduce carbon emissions.

How much carbon do they burn up with all the concrete it takes to put one of these things up, let alone all the rest of the infrastructure?

To top it all, new data is out that these things are only 15pc efficient.

Remember these companies are selling something, so of course they come in with the big brochures and everything is fine.

You spend a couple of hours talking to people who have these things put up beside their properties (you won't hear negative things from people who already have them as they have a gag order in place) - many have had to move away from their farms, many have had health issues, their properties have devalued so much they can't sell them.

We should listen to countries overseas who have had nothing but trouble from these things and use that information so we can make an informed decision.

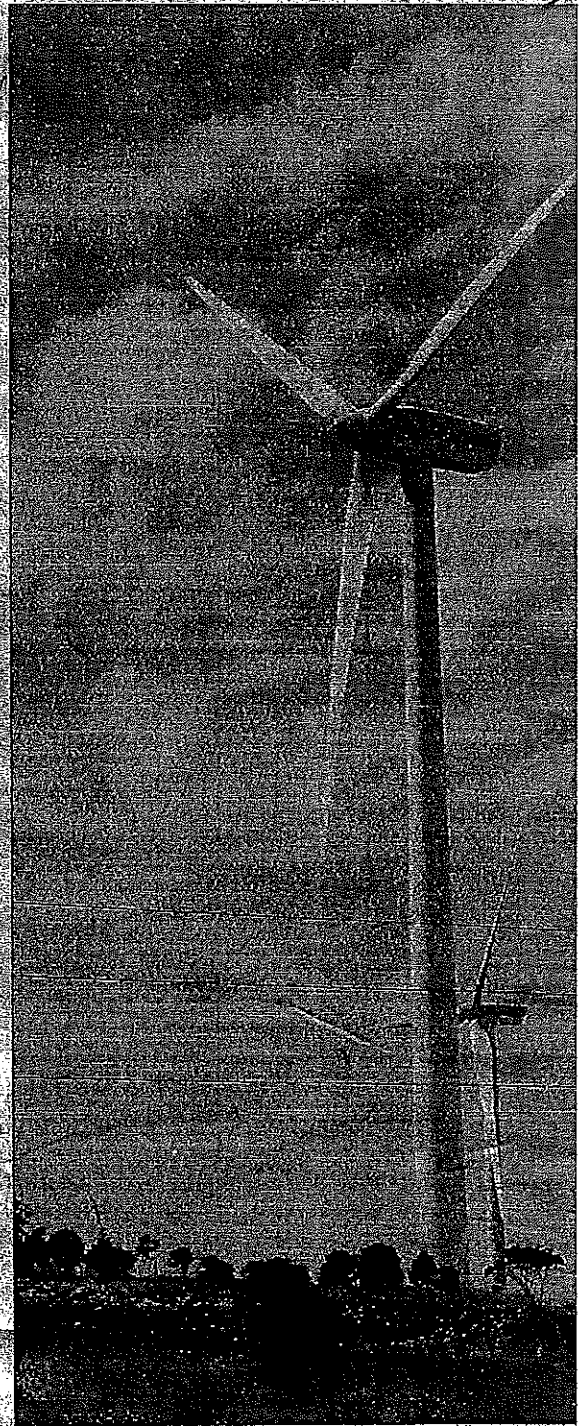
We have to speak up now as once the concrete is poured, they will be on our landscape forever.

John Hunt  
Allendale East

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Readers continue to voice concerns about wind farms.

Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE



B/Walsh 17/2/11

## Council dismisses payment rumours

DISTRICT Council of Grant has defended Acciona Energy's payment of \$200,000 to the Local Government body and rejected suggestions the contribution was a factor in the decision to approve the Allendale East Wind Farm development.

Council chief executive officer Russell Peate said the payment was "strictly based on the State Government's Development Act.

"State Government development regulations determine what the payable fee is for a development application and, for any council, it is based on the value of a development - because it is a \$175m development, it attracted the maximum development application fee of \$200,000," Mr Peate said.

"Everything was done absolutely above board."

Mr Peate said the money was paid in two instalments - \$100,000 was paid when Acciona lodged the application, with the balance 12 months later.

"The money had been, and will be, used for community projects and to the benefit of communities," he said.

"Some of the money was used for the upgrade of the Allendale East Community Hall, and in particular for a new kitchen, and a contribution was made to the new Port MacDonnell Maritime Museum."

Mr Peate said it was disappointing for council to deal with rumours considering the money could have been put into revenue instead of to the benefit of communities.

In the past week, some ratepayers have questioned council's intentions for approving the \$175m wind farm after receiving the payment around the time when council's development assessment panel approved the project in 2009.

Their suspicions came after Allendale East and Eight Mile Creek residents recently started to object to the development, claiming possible adverse health effects, inadequate community consultation and property devaluation as some of their reasons.

Ratepayers have continued to raise concerns over recent months, more than a year after council's consultation period closed for the 46 turbine project, which is currently before the Adelaide Environment, Resources and Development Court due to an appeal from a landholder.

B/WATCH 17 FEB 2011

## Blown away by wind farm statements

I WRITE in reference to the letter from a Mr. Ke McAlpine, a director of Vestas Australian Wind Technology, published in *The Border Watch* on January 14, 2011, titled "Turbine claim rejected". Residents of the South East, particularly those in the vicinity of proposed wind "farms", should find his letter most instructive as to how some wind companies go about their business.

Mr McAlpine's claim that wind energy is "one of the safest industries in the world" is breathtaking in its disingenuity.

His references to no greenhouse emissions, and other air and water pollution, take no account of the huge and alarming elephant in the room.

Of course, as folk here and overseas are rapidly becoming aware, the real issue is not the "excellent health and safety records" of a wind company, but the alarming issue Mr McAlpine did not address, namely, the health of the residents in the many kilometres around wind "farms".

Why is it that Mr McAlpine makes no reference to the peer-reviewed studies of medical practitioners and scientists, here and overseas, about the severe health problems such as hypertension - the "silent killer" - sleeplessness and the multiplicity of health issues flowing from such diseases?

Why does he hurriedly add at the end of a sentence, the outrageous, "or doing any other kind of harm"?

It is not for want of published evidence. It is not for want of a growing number of patients near the new mega-windfarms desperately seeking help from their GPs and specialists.

Just what price do we put on the health of our South East residents?

As if to rob salt into the wounds, Mr McAlpine ends with a flourish about "the jobs and other economic benefits" he claims will "continue to flow".

Does he mean as in Spain, where the exorbitant cost of electricity from wind farms, compared with other sources, has crippled the economy, driving industry and young people away from the country? 18pc unemployment and growing.

Similarly in California.

At least those driven out by his "fantastic" wind farms may have one advantage - far, far better health.

D. Stewart, Millicent.

14