

- 1 FEB 2011

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SHIRE OF KOJONUP					
FILE:	DB.BDA.8				
CEO	MCS	MRCS	WM	COPO	PB
HR	SFO	NRSM	SHM	PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

P.O. Box 178  
 Tambellup WA 6320  
 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**COPY**

The Chief Executive Officer,  
 Kojonup Shire Council  
 Albany Highway  
 Kojonup WA 6395.

Dear Sirs,

We are close neighbours to the proposed Flat Rocks Wind Farm and strongly urge you and the Kojonup councillors to reject this proposal. We were not invited to the meeting at Intabon and had no knowledge of it until receiving a copy of the proposal.

Our other concerns are:

1. Health Issues: We have enclosed a letter from Dr Sarah Laurie.
  2. Devaluation of properties as declared by Shane McIntyre of Elders Real Estate. We are enclosing a copy of this report.
  3. Electromagnetic Interference: In the Flat Rocks proposal they claim interference to Televisions will be fixed. There is no mention of Radio, two-way radio reception, microwave + G.P.S. Many cars are now run on GPS and we cannot afford to have this affected as these systems are extremely costly.
- Wind Shear: This is a problem as we have contacted an aerial spray contractor and they will not fly if there is a presence of turbines. We are also concerned about the risk of entry to properties as Noxious Weeds and Footrot could be readily spread. Also the secrecy behind this project and its outcomes appear to be sinister.

Yours sincerely  
 R N Schlueter  
 R SCHLUETER

Schlueter  
 C SCHLUETER

Schlueter  
 T SCHLUETER

Encl: 2.

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## **Open Letter to the Premier of Victoria, Mr John Brumby**

20/10/2010

My name is Dr Sarah Laurie, and I am the Medical Director of a newly formed national organisation called the Waubra Foundation. Our task is to act as a catalyst to ensure that independent peer reviewed research into the emerging issues of adverse health effects associated with wind turbine developments is urgently carried out. We have the current situation where our peak health body, the National Health and Medical Research Council, rightly says there is no peer reviewed evidence of adverse health effects from these wind turbine developments, but this does not mean there is no problem.

In the light of the extensive and growing anecdotal reports of health problems being experienced by those who live and work close to these turbine developments across the world, and the planned deployment of turbines close to homes and workplaces, it is imperative that such research is urgently carried out, independent of all those with vested interests in the outcome of such research.

As part of my duties as Medical Director, I have recently spent 2 weeks in Victoria, and spoken with people from Toora, Waubra and Cape Bridgewater. I have listened to the stories of those people who claim their health has been adversely affected since the turbines in their area started operating, met with public health and local council officials, provided information to interested Medical Practitioners, given public presentations, and spoken with the media, and discussed possible areas for research with interested researchers.

I was shocked at the extent and severity of symptoms which have been experienced by some individuals which appear to be related to the turbines when they are operating. Some patients experience symptoms when they are five km away from the nearest turbines.

Five people have had a clinical history consistent with a very rare and serious condition known as an acute hypertensive crisis, where they develop a sudden acute severe headache, nausea, a sensation of their heart leaping out of their chest, and they feel extremely unwell. This pattern of symptoms is associated with a dangerously high blood pressure, and warrants immediate medical attention. The Director of the Emergency Department at Ballarat Base Hospital is now aware that patients who develop these symptoms will be coming to his department. I was also shocked at the extent of acute psychiatric distress which some of these patients have been experiencing. Both the episodes of apparent hypertensive crises and depth of psychiatric distress have also been noted by the Canadian researchers I am in contact with, although this has not yet been described in any formal published medical studies.

I am appalled at the number of families I spoke to or was told about, who have had to leave their land because of poor health which they attribute to the turbines, thus losing not just their health, their homes, but often their livelihoods as well, as they were unable to

continue working their land. This pattern has been experienced across the world, and has been well described by Dr Nina Pierpont (USA), Dr Robert McMurtry (Canada), Dr Michael Nissenbaum (USA), and Dr Amanda Harry (UK).

Two individuals from different parts of Victoria who have signed confidentiality agreements restricting them from talking publicly about their symptoms and health problems spoke with me, in confidence, and I was dismayed to hear of this practice by the wind companies. I understand it is also widespread overseas. This has unfortunately contributed to a situation where health problems have gone undetected by the medical community because of this restricted access to information which inevitably delays proper public health research.

At the end of this month I am attending the International Wind Turbine Health Conference in Ontario, Canada, together with clinicians and researchers from across the world, who are all concerned about this issue and wish to share current knowledge and plan future research. This is a growing international issue, impacting many rural communities. Rural residents, clinicians and acousticians working in Canada, the USA, the UK and Scandinavia are all becoming aware that turbines appear to be affecting people's health in unexpected and unexplained ways. The patterns of symptoms being experienced are however, remarkably similar. Some countries, such as Denmark, have decided to only build new turbines out to sea. Mr Peter Jorgensen, the Danish Wind Industry Expert recently in South Australia as the guest of the premier Mr Mike Rann, confirmed this at a public meeting at the Adelaide Town Hall and during a radio interview on ABC Adelaide local radio with Carol Whitelock. Mr Jorgensen specifically stated that this was because of concerns about noise and health.

Our request is simple and not unreasonable. We agree that the peer reviewed independent acoustic, scientific, and health studies have not yet been done. So let's do them properly, independently, and with the appropriate levels of funding. Let's proceed with caution, delay construction and approval of further wind developments which are closer than 10km to homes and workplaces, until the results of these studies are known.

Dr Sarah Laurie,

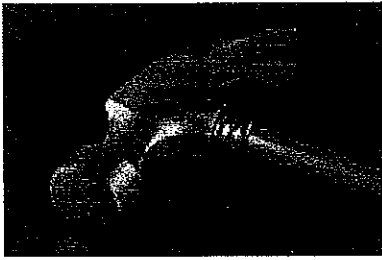
Medical Director

Waubra Foundation,

PO Box 1136 South Melbourne, VIC 3205

## **Expert confirms wind turbines hammer property value (Australia)**

By admin Friday January 21, 2011



**“There is absolutely no doubt that the value of lands adjacent to wind towers falls significantly in value.”**

—Shane McIntyre, National Sales Manager, Elders Rural Real Estate Services (1-18-11)

I have been a Licensed Estate Agent for 30 years, specialising in the sale of Rural property, essentially all over Australia, with an emphasis on Victoria and the Riverina. I have held senior management positions with the largest rural real estate companies in Australia.



Shane McIntyre

In recent years the growth of activity and the actuality of wind towers throughout the Victorian rural landscape has been significant.

Challicum Hills, Coddington, and Mt Mitchell have all emerged as large-scale wind farms, located on the tops of the low hill-country, interrupting the landscape for many kilometres.

Of significant importance is the negative effect on the value of adjoining lands where wind towers have been erected. Visually, the towers are seen by the majority of the market as repulsive. Audibly, the towers affect the stillness a property enjoys, in particular the resonating tones in the night, invading serenity of the adjoining lands.

A proliferation of wind towers adjacent to a property has the same effect as high voltage power lines, rubbish tips, piggeries, hatcheries, and sewerage treatment plants. That is, if buyers are given a choice, they choose not to be near any of these impediments to value.

The ultimate effect is that the number of buyers willing to endure these structures is significantly less than if the structures were not there. This logically has a detrimental effect on the final price of the adjoining lands.

Experts assess the loss of value to be in excess of 30 percent, and sometimes up to half.

My personal experience is that when an enquiry (potential buyer) becomes aware of the presence of wind towers, or the possibility of wind towers in the immediate district of a property advertised for sale, the "fall out" of buyers is major. Very few go on to inspect the property, and even fewer consider a purchase. On the remote chance they wish to purchase, they seek a significant reduction in the price.

There is absolutely no doubt that the value of lands adjacent to wind towers falls significantly in value. The ambience of a rural property is important and, oftentimes, the sole reason why a purchaser selects a particular area or district.

The imposition of wind towers destroys this ambience forever.