

Lesson 27: The Offer of Tree Planting is a Trap.

Wind companies are scared of neighbours.

They know their turbines are loud, they know the turbines will cause sleep disturbance, and they know they will receive complaints.

Every complaint is logged and registered as a black mark against the company's performance record. Investors are risk-averse and won't buy into a problem business.

Tree plantations won't stop wind turbine noise.

The rule of wind farm noise is – the higher the background noise - the higher the turbine noise.

Tree planting is used to allow the company to emit higher noise and still claim compliance.

By inserting trees between the home and the turbines, the graphs can be fudged.

The company can claim the background noise has increased because the trees have grown.

They claim the high noise is not the turbine noise – it's because the extra tree foliage growth has increased the natural background levels.

This is how they Stich You Up

1. Wind companies will offer neighbours "free" tree planting very early in the planning stage before neighbours know anything about wind farm noise.
2. First they place a noise monitor at sensitive houses before the trees are planted.
3. Then they offer "free tree screening" to the homes they know will be impacted by noise.
4. After the trees have grown and just before construction starts they re-test background levels.
5. The loud noise from the turbines causes sleep disturbance and they receive noise complaints.
6. They then use the trees against the neighbour to dismiss complaints.
7. They say the loud noise is caused by the increased tree foliage, not the turbines, there is no basis for the complaints.
8. And neighbours have no legal grounds to complain because they have signed an agreement to accept the trap – the *free gift of trees*.

It's about manipulating Background Noise levels

A wind farm acoustician's podcast comment tells all.

"The only way you can 'treat a property' would be sometimes by increasing the background noise and whether you just increase more trees to increase that background noise, and therefore provide some masking". (Date 14/04/2020)

Planting trees is part of the plan to get rid of you as a problem.

The authorities accept wind companies' self-written noise compliance reports without question and use the reports to dismiss neighbours' complaints.

They know trees don't block the noise, but they will side with the company and say the reports show compliance, there are no grounds for your complaint.

Here's how an EPA auditor writes it up.

"I note that the background noise checks were conducted in March 2017 and it is likely that vegetation has grown in the intervening period, which may increase the background noise due to vegetation. If this is the case a greater noise limit may be applicable". (June 3rd, 2022)

It seems this EPA auditor is making way for the company to claim for higher noise.

It seems the EPA is more focused on protecting the wind farm's business than protecting harm to health.

Wind companies will do anything to grow trees on your land.

They will call it "visual screening" – but it's a trap to increase your natural background noise levels.

Mt Fyans wind farm announced in the local paper:

"no-obligation vegetation screening at neighbouring properties out to three kilometres - prior to the project being approved".

(Warrnambool Standard 20th November 2022).



Work has started at neighbouring properties for our visual screening program.

We're starting these works now to give the vegetation some time to develop ahead of construction. Neighbouring properties can still sign up to the program by contacting info@mtfyanswindfarm.com.au