

Lesson 33: The Lived Experience of Wind Farm Living

Wind Farm Living's Educating the Lawyers Series is based on the knowledge and lived experience of real people who have consulted for, lived beside, or will soon be cursed by a wind farm.

Like the neighbours of the Garvoc wind farm

Who has just received a pamphlet in the mail notifying them of a wind farm development next door. They are shocked because Garvoc is prime dairying country, relied on by the Nation for its food production.

They took their case to The Moyne Shire Council

(scroll to 22:37 into the meeting)

[Garvoc Neighbours fighting for their agricultural existence](#)

I know one of the hosts, Wayne and Bonnie Johnstone.

Lovely people and a gorgeous family.

I was on the Terang Kindergarten Committee with Bonnie. Their kids mentored my kids at primary school.

Wayne is the President of the Terang Racing Club.

They are now in business with a wind farm.

Little do they know that they will likely become the most hated people in the district and will be the cause of much division in the community.

A bit like The Sister's wind farm did to The Sister's Community, a little way up the road. (I am pretty sure it's the same cowboy developer).

They will lose their long-term friends, and come the next fire season, the neighbours will stand back and watch as their paddocks burn, because the local CFA will not enter a burning wind farm.

And rather than rally behind them, as they did after the St Patrick's Day fires, the neighbours will likely sue them for damages.

Like the Neighbours of the Mumblin wind farm

There is serious objection to the Mumblin wind farm.



The CEO of the company stood in front of the community and promised he would not object to any planning application within the 1km-no-go zone of the wind farm boundary.

Then this tycoon developer promptly objected, first at Council and then twice at VCAT.

The developer is in it for the money.

In it to do a quick deal, get a permit then sell.

Full of empty promises and lies to pacify the neighbours.

The Mumblin community has lawyered up.

Like the neighbours of the Willatook wind farm

A strong united community, that is also lawyered up and defiant.

For most of the neighbours, this is their second time around.

Many are also neighbours of the adjoining Macarthur wind farm.

This time 'round they are not so gullible as to be gagged by a tree plantation gift or pittance \$2,000 a year neighbour agreement – that has tied up their land title with a caveat and prevented them from complaining about sleep disturbance and turbine sickness.

The Willatook neighbours have lived experience – they know exactly what they're doing.

Mt Fyans, Darlington and Dundonnell is Brolga Country



Like the neighbours of the Mt Fyans wind farm

Who have just presented their case to the Planning Panel Hearing.

The neighbours are incorporated, organized, and lawyered up.

They engaged Les Huson, whose evidence the Bald Hills Judge preferred.

MDA's bullshit noise reporting was exposed as bullshit.

And Hamish Cumming easily uncovered the lies told by the wind farm's so-called Brolga expert.

Like the neighbours of the proposed Darlington wind farm

Constantly collecting photographic evidence of the Brolgas flocking on the wind farm site.

Like the Dundonnell wind farm

A broken-down wind farm sitting in a paddock.

Nacelles lying on the ground.

It has already clocked up one blade throw incident.

It has killed well above its allocated bird kill permitted allowance.

It has wiped out all Brolgas and raptors in the area, and now the farmers have a rodent plague.

You will never hear about this devastation from any AEIC or Government media release.

Like the neighbours of the Hexham wind farm

The first wind farm permit with no noise protection. This permit will be subject to the Victorian Planning Provision VC234, which hands the full responsibility for wind farm noise predictions, background testing and noise compliance to the EPA.

The Hexham neighbours are on their own.

The EPA is a fortress designed not to help people.

It is now more important than ever for the Hexham neighbours to protect themselves with independent background testing, ready for their only option – a nuisance claim in court.

They will need access to the raw data straight from the meters.

MDA does NOT hand over the raw data.

MDA lies and calls processed data raw data, but processed data is useless and cannot be validated or verified for court.

Do NOT let MDA onto your land !!

The only reputable and ethical acousticians out there experienced in wind turbine noise that WFL recommends are:

- L Huson & Associates office@huson.com.au
- Noise Measurement Services: info@noisemeasurement.com.au

They are the only acousticians who will hand over the raw data straight from the meters.

The rest will take your money and your data and use it against you in court.

Like the neighbours of the Woolsthorpe wind farm.

A close-knit community that is powerless against a Government fast-tracking a dirty big wind farm just a couple of kilometres outside the town.

- In 2006 the wind farm started out at 136m.
- In 2020 it went to 168m.
- Then, in 2022, the company submitted an amendment to the permit – now the turbines will tower over the landscape at 230m high.

It will destroy the community spirit of the town.

Like the neighbours of the Hawkesdale wind farm.

A wind farm to be built only 1 km from an idyllic peaceful country town.

The neighbours can already hear the beeping of the backing trucks across the quiet ambient rural environment.

Luckily, they've done their background testing.

One of the Hosts refused to sign the final lease agreement and has been successfully sued by the wind farm for breach of contract. (albeit – the initial flimsy piece of paper).

Like the neighbours of the Mortlake South wind farm

This wind farm has only just started up, with only some of the turbines working and only at 30%.

Neighbours are already submitting noise complaints and are experiencing the gaslighting tactics of the wind farm reps.

It did a deal with the Local Council and paid the CEO 200K up front for a letter of support for the wind farm development.

The Moyne Shire Council has had its hand out ever since, and rather than protect its constituent, it protects the wind farm's reputation.

This wind farm's bloody noisy, with blade rot.

Like the neighbours of the Ryan Corner w'farm

A somewhat divided community.

On the one hand, there are the life-stylers who have signed a neighbour agreement with their fingers crossed, hoping MDA didn't lie when it said the maximum noise limit they would hear would be 40dB.

Unfortunately for them, MDA did lie.

The licensed level is a 40dB LA90.

40dB is statistically the lowest level they will hear in their bedrooms at night.

It allows for unlimited levels of noise. And the intermittent special characteristic noise that wakes people up at night cannot be identified in an LA90 statistical calculation.

Another problem for the stakeholder neighbours, the 2-dollar neighbour agreement prevents them from taking legal action against the wind farm for making them sick and keeping them awake, or generally causing them loss of enjoyment of their land.

And then, to add insult to injury, if they are unable to live on their piece of paradise, they will need permission from the company to sell to any new buyer.

The neighbour agreement places a caveat on their titles and gives the wind farm the right to refuse any potential sale.

Any new owners must agree to sleep disturbance and adverse health impacts as part of the conditions of sale of the lifestyle property.

Then, on the other hand, there are the switched-on savvy neighbours who have told the wind farm to stick their pittance compensation offer and, instead, have invested in background testing to prepare themselves to sue the company for nuisance, damages, and the loss of enjoyment of their land.

Like the neighbours of the Macarthur wind farm.

Having to put up with this disgraceful industrial development on prime agricultural land.



The local council has ignored their complaints for decades. The Council CEO even refused a 50K grant from the government to investigate the well-documented adverse noise impacts. Instead, he asked AGL to submit a noise report. AGL did their noise testing and reported the noise was compliant. Councillors accepted this self-written opinion report without question and voted that there was no basis for the neighbours' complaints.

The Hosts are now itinerant farmers, who can't live on their properties because of the noise. The neighbours, too, have been forced to move away.

Annie and Gus Gardner were exceptional farmers, who once operated an internationally renowned fine merino wool farming enterprise adjacent to the wind farm. They were forced off their land because of the serious health impacts the wind farm caused them.

Ron Jelbart another typical hardworking farmer, was laughed at in the early days because he complained the turbines kept him awake at night.

He was a community man, a member of the local CFA, and a regular volunteer on working-bee committees.

Ron and his wife were forced to move away from the community to sleep in another town.

The community has lost a valuable contributor.

Like the Host of the Codrington wind farm

Who was liable for the wind farm's construction contractor starting a fire and burning out the neighbour's property?

The wind farm refused to cover the damages bill, and the host's farm insurance policy didn't cover the public liability on the third-party wind farm business.

The Host was well out of pocket.

Like the neighbour of the Salt Creek wind farm

A family who has farmed the land for generations. They complained about the blade flicker and noise nuisance to the relevant authorities, and now the wind farm has been declared a public nuisance under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

This family wants to continue farming their land long into the next generations.

They're not going anywhere – it is the wind farm that will need to stop its non-compliant and illegal business operations.

Like the neighbours of the Cape Bridgewater wind farm.

The neighbours have been forced to abandon their homes.

The infrasonic pulsation impacts from the wind farm have been well documented by Steven Cooper.

The late Senator Madigan exposed in Parliament how MDA, the wind farm's acoustician, falsified noise reports.

The Minister and the AEIC have known about the falsification of acoustic reporting for years and have done nothing.

I understand the neighbours are now taking legal action against the authorities.

Like a neighbour of the Lal Lal wind farm

Who complained to the wind farm and authorities over many months, and nobody helped her.

Her pain and suffering is documented on her Facebook page [Diary of a Wind Farm Neighbour](#)

Her diary entries describe how her children have suffered harm, and how the family have had to bunk down in the lounge room or leave the property for sleep relief.

Her public diary is now on hold because she is taking the only option left to her – to sue the wind farm in court.

Like the neighbours of the Berrybank wind farm.

Long-time friends (one a host and the other a neighbour) now not talking.

Significant pain and suffering at the hands of this Spanish company.

Shithouse internet access, and crap TV reception.

The neighbours are angry, pissed off and up for the fight.

They too are suing the wind farm in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

I know one of the hosts at Berrybank, another gorgeous family, now in business with a wind farm.

When they signed up years ago – things were bad on the farm.

But they turned it around, and up until recently, the farm has been a thriving cropping enterprise, operated by the son.

Now the wind farm is in control.

The farm's agricultural advancement is limited by the direction of the company not to spray fertiliser and chemicals near the turbine blades.

Like a neighbour of the Stockyard Hill wind farm.

Who is continually woken up with excruciating pain in her head and ears.

Something about the turbines cause a jabbing radiating pain throughout her body.

She feels the turbines, it's hard to explain, all she knows is they cause her serious physiological and psychological stress.

She has diligently kept a diary and submitted numerous complaints.

She is ready to fight, quote "the bastards", unquote.

However, I best not say too much about this persecuted neighbour, because she is currently taking legal action against the wind farm.

Her writ – the business makes her feel sick.

Like the neighbours of the Waubra wind farm

Gaslighted by the industry before the term gaslighting was invented.

The vulnerable neighbours were told ... "People don't get sick from turbines - it's all in your heads".

Well, this video and the Waubra Foundation tell the story of the truth.

<https://youtu.be/wYnNQoTcsHY>

[Waubra Foundation - Health Effects](#)



Like the Bald Hills wind farm

The Bald Hills wind farm emits turbine noise at pollution levels, but the EPA won't do anything to stop the noise pollution.

The Bald Hills Boys won their battle, but rather than abate operations as per ordered by the courts, the wind farm paid out the boys for their years of misery.

The wind farm continues to pollute the land.

The EPA is supposed to be an independent authority for the protection of people and the environment from any pollution-causing businesses.

Public sector employees are required to enforce the general environmental duty of the company to minimise the risk of harm to human health.

However the health of the neighbours of Bald Hills continues to be harmed by the operations of this wind farm, and it appears public servants are turning a blind eye to the pollution.

It is important to hold Statutory Authorities and any negligent public servants to account.

Like the Aussies, fighting for the protection of our sacred wilderness areas.

A wind farm dumping its rubbish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQicWEp9P-s>

Chalumbin – a wilderness sanctuary

<https://vimeo.com/582415839>

Upper Burdekin – a wilderness sanctuary

<https://vimeo.com/706882264>

Kaban – a wilderness sanctuary

<https://vimeo.com/633451905>

Kaban - destroyed.

<https://vimeo.com/775033740>

Like the networking

Groups are talking all 'round Australia and the World – information is dropping into in-boxes.

The critical mass to turn the vote is fast approaching.

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