Ongoing issues with the SA EPA: Not responding to information requests and not addressing wind farm impacts on Waterloo residents.

M Morris June 1 2015

The SA EPA has not delivered on actions it committed to regarding the Waterloo wind farm environmental noise study and has been ignoring correspondence and phone calls from residents and acousticians requesting information and follow up since the study.

Ongoing the community feels it has been fobbed off and their complaints not adequately addressed.

Over the last 3 years I have sent several emails to the EPA and made phone calls to the information line regarding data and FOI and one of the acousticians and these have not been followed up on by the EPA.

Friday 27 March 2015 – I emailed Environment Minister Hunter asking for a private meeting at Mid North Country cabinet on 29/3/2015 to discuss EPA not following up with Waterloo residents over Noise monitoring at the Wind farm, not providing data. (email provided below)

Saturday 28 March lunchtime—I received a phone call from Tony Circelli, CE of the SA EPA who had been asked by the Environment Minister's office to respond to my request. He said he thought that matter was all settled as it had all gone quiet. NO, it hasn't been settled to the satisfaction of the residents. We agreed to meet at Peterborough to discuss further. The situation has not settled. There has been no follow up, residents still affected. EPA has not provided requested full data. Has not responded to emails and phone calls.

Promised data has not been provided to other acousticians. Steven Cooper has asked for it three times and never had a response from the EPA.

**29** March **2015** - Attended Country cabinet at Peterborough – met with Tony Circelli CE of the SA EPA Gave TC release forms signed by 4 residents to give me and acousticians Thorne, Cooper and Hansen all data and audio records from Waterloo noise study

Discussed various aspects which EPA have not followed up on with residents and questioned information in the EPA report.

## 20 April 2015 phone call from woman standing in for Peter Dolan- Director of Science and Assessment

The EPA were not satisfied with my release forms- not signed by all members of household and not witnessed.

The EPA would create their own release form and send directly to the residents.

Some discussion about the completeness of material they had already sent to the residents - data missing .

EPA said it would be too expensive for them to provide the data to me as it was 1.3 TB. I said I would provide them with a hard drive so they could put the data on it.

[Seagate 2 TB hard drive costs \$99 at JB Hi Fi – which what EPA used to send data to 2 of the residents who hosted monitoring equipment]

**Monday 1 June 2015** I phoned Resident at EPA "WEST" site. She has not received any correspondence from the EPA regarding release forms for data.

<u>This is 7 weeks</u> after I received the phone call from the EPA saying they would create their own release forms and almost 2 years since the noise monitoring equipment was removed.

There is a lack of transparency and due diligence on the part of the EPA who are not investigating the impacts at Waterloo to the satisfaction of the Waterloo community.

From: Mary Morris

**Sent:** Friday, 27 March 2015 9:48 AM

To: ministerhunter@sa.gov.au

Subject: for discussion at Country Cabinet at Peterborough EPA Waterloo noise study NOISE DATA

## **Dear Minister Hunter**

I am the person who liaised between the SA EPA and the Waterloo Community for the Waterloo wind farm noise study in 2013.

I will be attending Country Cabinet at Peterborough this Sunday where I hope to meet with you to discuss the EPA's lack of follow up with the community regarding the SA EPA Waterloo wind farm noise study.

In the beginning, Professor Campbell Gemmell said to us and on national television (Today Tonight) that the people were genuinely being affected – "the concerns that the local community are describing are very real. That's exactly the point of the research project, that we are going to work together with the University on, we've got to move this forward"



Dr Campbell Gemmell Chief Executive South Australian EPA Clare, SA, 31/1/2013 Re Waterloo wind farm

Lucy Polkinghorne: Do you think that there is a legitimate problem here?

CG: "I think that the concerns that we have heard today and that we'd discussed previously when we met with some of the local community before Christmas, they're real. These people are being disturbed, they're having all sort of impacts on their lives".

LP: Will you conduct the proper tests that will resolve this issue?

CG: "Definitely, that's exactly the point of the research project, that we are going to work together with the University on, we've got to move this forward. The concerns that the local community are describing are very real"

Marris - objection to CERES Project

So the Waterloo noise study was carried out.

But the University was never included in the study. They did their own testing, but despite being told they could get the EPA data, and requesting it, they only received weather and wind speed data from the EPA. No noise data from the EPA only some audio recordings privately from the residents.

Residents were told that the EPA would come back to follow up on the "rumbling" noise and to conduct further briefings with the residents and tp answer further questions which would arise when residents had had time to read the whole report. --- This has not happened.

Residents were told by the EPA that they would receive all the noise data and audio recordings from the monitoring done at their homes.

Residents at four of the sites have given me a copy of what was sent to them by the EPA. (North, West, East and Township)

Select Committee on Wind Turbines Submission 464 - Attachment 18

It is a mere fraction of all the data that was collected – for some key times when noise complaints were logged, **the data and audio is missing** from the material provided to the residents.

I have written to the EPA asking for data – see below.

And separately for a copy of the NSW peer review of the SA report. — which they have declined to provide . This is not what I would call openness or transparency.

They have not responded to me.

I would like to discuss this further with you at Peterborough (or in Adelaide )as well as discussing some areas where the SA wind farm noise guidelines could be improved to protect residents and provide greater certainty for developers.

Your sincerely Mary Morris

Mary Morris

Mid North Wind Farm Awareness/Goyder Sustainable Development Association

From: Mary Morris

**Sent:** Friday, 23 May 2014 11:31 AM

To: epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Subject: Waterloo noise study NOISE DATA

Dear EPA

RE Waterloo noise study noise data.

I am following up on the EPA's undertaking that it would provide noise data to the Waterloo community. I have requested this in the past, but so far have not received any data from the EPA.

I have however obtained copies of audio files from the residents at NORTH, WEST, TOWNSHIP and EAST sites, which I note are incomplete.

I have also obtained some of the EPA data through the DROPBOX link <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/3hvsqy1dbp06g3a/Data.zip">https://www.dropbox.com/s/3hvsqy1dbp06g3a/Data.zip</a>

This link does not provide any data for LAeq (LF), even though this information has been presented graphically on the EPA Graphs as a red line.

Can you please provide the data for LAeq (LF) for the Waterloo noise study as soon as possible- by email or DROP BOX

Thank you in anticipation

Mary Morris

