

**To the Select Committee on Wind Turbines  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600**

Dear Senators,

Pacific Hydro Ltd has been involved in my family life for far too long, since I purchased a small property in Cape Bridgewater, Southwest Victoria, in 2007.

When I inspected the property in 2006, I was told that the Pacific Hydro Wind Energy Facility consisting of 29 turbines, was proposed for the Cape.

I had lived in Scotland for years, and had seen wind turbines before. However, they were much smaller.

The stunning and unique environs of Cape Bridgewater captivated me. I purchased the property, and I proceeded to plan my retirement in 'Corkhill' farmhouse. I would restore the original early settler cottage for myself, and rent the 1900's farmhouse for periods of time, to enable me to spend 6 months of each year in the UK with my family, resume and pursue my creative pursuits and get on with my life, offering an Australian bolt hole to my family, in an increasingly fragmented world.

It was not to be.

The photo montage provided by Pacific Hydro was incorrect, falsified in depiction, and by omission. I later learned that other residents of Cape Bridgewater had this experience, during the period of time taken to get the proposal accepted by Government, etc.

The closest 110m wind turbine is 620m from my home.

The Wind Energy Companies can take advantage of rural areas. Get their hosts in place, with or without gag clauses, erect wind turbines, throw sustaining fund dollars to the sports clubs and the kindergartens, keep their own heads down, preferably in a city, and subject the next community to disruption, division, disorientation, destabilisation, ill health, mood swings and displacement.

The Glenelg Shire Council have placed a Heritage Overlay over my property, Corkhill. I did not object to this, but the irony was not wasted on me. So little so late, and 29 wind turbines.

The Glenelg Shire Council declines to attend to our complaints and refers us, backwards and forwards to the Minister for Planning.

The Glenelg Shire Council slavishly supports wind turbines in all respects, regularly stating this in the local paper, the Portland Observer.

Requests for Freedom of Information to the Glenelg Shire Council regarding the early planning of the Cape Bridgewater wind facility, are continually thwarted. I am continuing my requests.

My rates have increased by 100 percent over the past 8 years. No adjustment has been made by the Council in connection with the depreciation of my property, due to the proximity of my home to the turbines. I have been told to send all complaints to Pacific Hydro, and was given PH's complaints phone number! In some European countries adjustments are made to rates for residents undergoing impact and associated issues, whilst living near wind turbines.

Since Mr Lane Crockett in his Portland Golf Club House speech made it quite plain that as a participant in the Cooper Testing, my complaints would be null and void as of February 16th 2015. The company had attended to our situation. We were done and dusted.

### **Residents displeasure during preconstruction time.**

Access to private property for the installation of the power lines near the village of Cape Bridgewater, was another deeply disruptive period for the residents.

The reputedly abusive Mr Danny Halstead, CEO Glenelg Shire Council, blasted his way through local Meetings, as a stringent advocate for the Pacific Hydro Facility. He later went to work for Pacific Hydro, and his current business card reads, Construction Manager. His reputation goes before him. His 'GET OUT OF TOWN' threats to one of the people involved in the objections to the proposal, is well known.

In January 1999 an article in the Portland Observer regarding VCAT's rejection of the Cape Bridgewater wind facility proposal, read...

### **VISUAL IMPACT STOPPED WINDFARM GOING AHEAD... See attachment.**

The Bracks Government (1999-2006) would later overturn the VCAT decision.

Pacific Hydro constantly 'reiterated' that the PWEF was different from Cape Bridgewater and that VCAT had 'erred' in its decision to reject the proposal. Pacific Hydro said that amongst other things, the PWEF would 'kick start' the manufacturing industry in the Portland region and that THE TRADE OFF BETWEEN SCENIC VALUES AND THE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS WAS UNFORTUNATE, BUT NECESSARY.

Perhaps this policy was the origin of the 'more Green jobs' slogan, which we repeatedly hear from the complicit Keppel Prince Lobby.

Pacific Hydro has manipulated Portland workers. Robbing them of their initiative and imaginations. Making them reliant upon the wind industry which will drop them in one second, with high electricity prices and no homes, whenever the need arises. Pacific Hydro is now up for sale? Will they spare a thought for the Portland workers when a sale is finalised?

My point is that Pacific Hydro Ltd between the late 90's and the early 2000's, was instigating a dependency upon the trade sector of Southwest Victoria, capturing them in a socio economic time warp to be utilised by the industry, and the media, etc.

Portland could have been a unique tourist venue, with thermal health springs...Capes and cliffs...and unique scenic environs. Instead it has been pillaged by the manipulative wind industry.

The wind industry is implicit in social damage to communities. It is also responsible for the health issues which plague my family and others. Infrasound, with the constant atmospheric pressure changes, makes my home an unsettling, disturbing and harmful place in which I cannot rest.

Medical research into these health issues, the causes of which have been identified in the Steven Cooper Acoustic Report, and internationally acknowledged, must be undergone immediately.

## **COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEPT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

The first staff coordinator from the DPCD to visit our property and discuss matters at his office in Warrnambool, was Mr Bart Gane. He thoroughly understood the workings and the machinations of wind energy facilities. He was polite and helpful with information. We always appreciated that he was unable to personalise his interactions with my family. We welcomed his knowledgeable approach to our problems of noise, proximity etc.

On Bart Gane's first visit to Corkhill he asked to view the turbines on the southern side of the property. We were about five people in number. I stood next to Bart. We had no sooner approached the fence when Bart reeled backwards, grabbing his forehead. He said "DID ANYONE ELSE FEEL THAT? I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW (I HAVE TO GET AWAY)".

I knew instantly what had happened. He had been hammered with a bolt of infrasound from the nearby turbines. He hurried across to the back door of the house. We followed. I asked him to please come into the house and have a cup of tea. He came in begrudgingly, but would not sit down. He commented on the fine old timber floorboards in the kitchen and seemed to settle. He did not take tea and left quickly. Soon after the infrasound bolt incident, Bart Gane was removed to another section of the DPCD.

Shortly before he was repositioned, he provided us with a graph by Pacific Hydro's acousticians, Marshall Day, which showed non-compliance at our property. When I subsequently saw him on the Melbourne train, he said. "Remember they are **non-compliant**. Talk to Peter".

He had told us Peter Giudice would be replacing him, and that when he took Peter to see the Pacific Hydro Facility, he had commented, "It is not possible to operate that make and model of wind turbine at Cape Bridgewater and still be compliant".

Peter came to our house only once to talk and obviously wanted to assist us in any way possible. We emailed and spoke on the phone, but I could tell that something in the staff attitude had changed since Bart Gane's departure.

The name of the department changed to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.

Later in a phone call Peter Giudice told me he had resigned. He could no longer work as the department wished him to do, **“The Department adjusts information to obtain the required results”**. He apologised profusely that he had not been able to help us, and acknowledged that we were under duress, and changes had to be made. We have not heard from Peter Giudice's successor.

My family and I are irritable, sleep deprived and unhappy. Feeling trapped and bullied by Pacific Hydro, day after day. We send complaints and continue to make phone calls to Pacific Hydro, to no avail.

On two occasions whilst trying to work in the kitchen area, I have suffered severe chest pressure and a smothering sensation of breathlessness. I have been taken to Portland Hospital Casualty twice in the last two years. In the first instance I was admitted for three days with blood pressure readings fluctuating to well over 200. On the second occasion I remained in casualty for several hours whilst medical staff endeavoured to stabilise my blood pressure. Again over 200!

At this moment I am finding it exceedingly difficult to concentrate on my writing of this submission.

Since the Lane Crockett speech of February 16th in Portland, I seem to have undergone a trauma of sorts. Weeping at the very mention of Pacific Hydro's intrigues which we have undergone, culminating in the denial of the Cooper report findings and the audacity of the company to expect us to just cop it sweet.

I have seen so many young people entranced by the fragmentary pizzazz of climate change, at rallies and inflated causes, all put to work by the wind industry. Mind numbed and programmed at stage-managed forums, for obsequious causes, such as unsubstantiated job posturing.

In conclusion I ask that the Select Committee consider the implementation of planning processes in relation to wind farms, paying particular attention to Pacific Hydro Ltd, the Victorian State Ministry for Planning and the Glenelg Shire Council.

I would also ask for reliably informed medical research into the health issues, the cause of which has been identified in the Cape Bridgewater Cooper Acoustic Report, and acknowledged internationally.

There is much more to be said. I am exhausted. My home is worthless and strictly speaking, uninhabitable. Please help us to get rural Australia back on track to decency and productive lives, instead of being terrorised by the greed driven wind industry.

Sincerely,

Sonia Trist

Corkhill Cape Bridgewater Victoria.