

# STOP THE SPIN

Stockyardhill Community Guardians  
Newsletter #1 March 2013

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**Want the truth?  
You deserve the truth.**

## Stockyardhill Industrial Wind Development Update

- **Origin Energy** has increased the turbine size by 75% without any community consultation and no new background noise monitoring or modeling being undertaken. The original permit approval for the turbine size was 2MW, now **Origin** is installing 3-3.5MW turbines -currently the biggest in the world. Neither the State or Federal Government, nor the Pyrenees Shire have insisted on a new Noise Impact Assessment to take into account the increase in size which will lead to more infrasound, noise and adverse health issues.
- **Origin's** public liaisons, Paul Duboudin and Catherine Mansfield refuse to answer questions from concerned community members regarding this. Why?
- Fact: 157 turbines approved, each turbine the equivalent of a 747 jumbo jet on top of a 20-storey skyscraper. All the turbines are located within 1-10km of houses.
- Stockyardhill Community Guardians have fundraised and purchased state of the art, world-class noise monitoring equipment that will soon be available to hire at a small rate to undertake private, independent, pre-construction noise monitoring on your property. Data analysis and a report will be provided by a trained and qualified sound expert. This information can then be used in any future litigation cases and as proof of increased infrasound and noise in your home.
- **Origin** has not yet signed off and finalised signatures from landholders south of Skipton, for access to install the power line route that will join the wind development to the sub station south of Lismore. Desperate for these signatures, **Origin** is using bullying techniques and has threatened legal action and compulsory acquisition of land. The Skipton Power line group has maintained their united approach, which insists on underground cabling on the roadside.
- **Origin** is going ahead with plans to quarry the side of Mount Monmot for construction materials. Again, without community consultation.
- Property values around Stockyard Hill have already seen a decrease, in particular those neighbouring the turbine hosts, now more commonly known as 'the buffer zone for an industrial site'. Evidence of decreased shire rates has already been confirmed in Victoria (South Gippsland).
- Fact: **Origin** has already threatened serious legal action against landholders wishing to get out of contracts to host turbines.
- The Pyrenees Shire continues to bury its head in the sand and handball the hard questions concerning Stockyardhill Industrial Wind Development to the State Government. They are not equipped nor have the financial backing to challenge, question or independently assess any Wind development in this shire.

**Origin Energy; Disrespect, Divide and Damage.**

## What we know already but the Wind industry are trying to hide.

- We know wind turbines generate audible, low frequency and infrasound noise and vibration. This has been measured inside and outside of sufferers' homes.
- We know health problems (totally new, or old afflictions aggravated) start to appear around wind projects sited in most rural settings with turbines of 0.6MW or larger, co-incident with the start up of operations.
- We know that the health problems continue to emerge in more people and intensify as time exposure increases.
- We know that increasing turbine blade length and power generating capacity increases both total noise emitted and the percentage of that noise present as low frequency noise and infrasound; which makes problems such as sleep disturbance more likely to occur in more households out to greater distances from the turbine (refer to Dr. Laurie's Annexure 10, "Low Frequency Noise from Large Turbines", Moller and Pedersen, 2011)
- We know that the appearance and intensity of symptoms diminish with distance from turbines, a crude but consistent indicator of a dose response effect in the few studies with systematic data collection.
- We know that similar effects or symptom clusters have been identified in many projects in Australia and overseas, and around other sources of infrasound and low frequency noise.
- We know sleep disturbance followed by sleep deprivation is the most common problem reported by wind project neighbours, with devastating effects on long term health and wellbeing and productivity.
- We know that the symptoms can be extremely serious. We know there is an increased risk of permanent damage to mental and physical health from the clinical cases we have observed.
- We know there is an increased risk of certain life threatening events, including heart attack, stroke and suicide from severe sleep deprivation, which is supported by recent and longstanding current knowledge within the peer reviewed medical literature.
- We know that some **40 families** have abandoned their houses or sold to developers in Victoria, NSW and South Australia, because they, or their families, became so ill whilst living in their homes. We have interviewed well over 100 sufferers, and the pattern of their suffering is identical, even if the specific cluster of symptoms experienced may differ in detail between sufferers.
- We know, from reports at Glenthompson and Mt Bryan, if turbines are shut down at night, peoples' health and sleep improves.
- We know if sufferers move away almost all the symptoms fade and disappear. If sufferers move back and the turbines are operating, the symptoms recur.
- We know that neither sleeping pills nor tranquilisers nor earplugs nor double glazing nor house insulation is of help with reducing episodes of sleep disturbance; an indicator of the presence of low frequency noise and infrasound.
- We have formed a professional view that the sufferers are neither hypochondriacs, nor casual of the truth, nor terrified; but are typical farmers; enduring of hardship and injury, uncomplaining and patient. Their suffering and symptoms are real and in no way do they exaggerate their pain. Sufferers are both turbine hosts and non-participating neighbours to wind farms.

**Origin Energy; Disrespect, Divide and Damage.**



## Recent developments on wind turbine noise and health.

Our understanding of the clinical patterns of illness and the acoustics of wind turbine noise has increased significantly over the last year.

We now understand that much of the pathology being reported by residents is related to chronic sleep deprivation and chronic physiological stress, in addition to the vestibular disorder symptoms which have been called “wind turbine syndrome” and include nausea, vertigo, balance disorders, ear pressure, and headaches. Recent work by Professor Con Doolan at Waterloo wind development in South Australia has shown that episodes of “annoyance” which included some of the symptoms above, are DIRECTLY correlating with particular low frequencies at certain “doses” of sound energy. This is evidence of a direct causal relationship. Unfortunately despite the residents in these acoustic surveys being very clear that these symptoms were correlating with operating wind turbines, because the wind developer TRU Energy (now Energy Australia) refused to cooperate with Professor Con Doolan he could not definitively determine that the noise frequencies being measured came from the wind turbines and not from some other source.

A recent literature review conducted by two public health medical practitioners in Ontario has found that not one of the peer reviewed published studies showed NO effect from the wind turbines – in other words, all the studies showed there WAS an effect on “human distress” which included sleep deprivation. Three of the studies showed a dose response effect, and the studies by Dr Michael Nissenbaum and Dr Daniel Shepherd were both described as being of excellent or robust quality.

In the Australian Cherry Tree case currently before VCAT, the two commissioners made some remarks on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, which included the following:

*"The Tribunal finds itself in a position where there is some direct evidence and much anecdotal evidence that people living in proximity to wind farms experience deleterious health effects, and those effects are of the same type, being sleep disturbance, increased anxiety, headaches, and pressure at the base of the neck. **There is clearly an association between wind farms and the symptoms that have been described.** The question is whether there is a causal link."*

Professor Con Doolan’s unique research has shown evidence of a **direct causal link**, between sound energies and symptoms, and it is research of this type, directly in the field measuring the sound energy present at the same time as symptoms are being recorded, which is so desperately needed to identify why some people out to 10km from larger wind turbines are getting the characteristic body vibrations and distressing sleep disturbance, which we know is so damaging for long term health.

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# Stockyardhill Community Guardians.

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**PO BOX 55, SKIPTON 3361**

Stockyardhill Community Guardians is a volunteer group representing over 100 local members that share grave concerns regarding the Stockyardhill Wind Farm development. Established 6 years ago, the group focuses on empowering people with independent information that is not wind industry funded, in order to be able to make educated decisions and remain community orientated.

The Stockyardhill Community Guardians joins the global network that is fighting for justice, independent health research and fairer outcomes for rural people regarding wind industrialisation of regional areas.

If you are interested in becoming a member, require more information or wish to donate to help support their ongoing work, please fill out the form below or email [syhcg@bigpond.com](mailto:syhcg@bigpond.com)



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I wish to join the Stockyardhill Community Guardians for an annual fee of \$20

I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to assist the ongoing volunteer work of the Guardians. Receipts will be posted.

Direct deposit: **BSB: 063 838**  
**Account no: 1004 0080**  
**Name: Western Plains Landscape Guardian Association INC**

Or send a cheque: **W.P.L.G.A**  
**P O Box 55, Skipton VIC 3361**

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**[www.stopthesethings.com.au](http://www.stopthesethings.com.au)**



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**WATCH THIS SPACE.**