



31 July 2015

Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Wind Turbines Select Committee

By email: windturbines.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Jeanette

Response to Adverse Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to a number of adverse comments made in various submissions to the Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines. Please find below our response following extracts from the relevant submissions.

We kindly request that the committee rejects the noted testimony and that the relevant comments are removed from the public record.

Submission 456

"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."

Pacific Hydro, in conjunction with consultants SKM, conducted substantial public consultation, including open panel hearings, regarding the planning of the wind farm and endeavoured to communicate subsequent changes regarding the wind farm as required by the planning obligations of the time, many of which were as a result of State Government conditions placed upon the project.

"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."

Pacific Hydro continues to accept, log and investigate complaints made by any member of the public (including members of the Trist family) and endeavours to work with residents to find ways to resolve such complaints, where possible. We therefore refute the claim that "we were done and dusted". We refer you to the closing comments made by Lane Crockett on 16 February 2015 at the public meeting in Portland which expressly state that while we were closing those complaints that had led to the commissioning of the acoustic study at Cape Bridgewater, we wished to continue our engagement with the Cape Bridgewater Community.

*"The reputedly abusive xxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxx, 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, xxxxxxxxxx. 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."***

***Please note personal identifying information has been removed from this quote.*



We do not intend to respond to statements, accusations or claims made by individuals that we consider to be rumour, personal opinion, innuendo or hearsay. Further, we encourage the senators to rely on verified facts and reports from reputable professional sources when considering their recommendations.

“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?”

Pacific Hydro has never sought to manipulate Portland workers nor any other member of the community. However, we have actively sought to provide employment opportunities to members of the local community by employing local workers, engaging local contractors and maintaining a commitment to sourcing local content, where possible. This commitment is demonstrated via our continual support of Keppel Prince engineering, who have fabricated every wind turbine tower erected by Pacific Hydro in Victoria.

“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.”

“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.”

As stated previously, Mr Cooper’s report does not demonstrate any causal or correlative link between health effects reported by residents and the operation of the Cape Bridgewater Wind Farm. However, we fully support any research that the NHMRC may conduct in this matter and will fully cooperate in such research as required.

“We send complaints and continue to make phone calls to Pacific Hydro, to no avail.”

As stated previously, Pacific Hydro continues to accept, log and investigate complaints made by any member of the public (including members of the Trist family) and endeavours to work with residents to find ways to resolve such complaints, where possible.



Yours sincerely,

Andrew Richards
Executive Manager, External Affairs
Pacific Hydro