

A few
words.

Macarthur Community Health
12 Ardonachie Street
Macarthur VIC 3286

13 November 2012

Macarthur Wind Farm

Dear Doctors at Macarthur Community Health,

I am writing to inform you that wind turbines started to turn at the Macarthur Wind Farm located approximately 14 kilometres east of the township of Macarthur, in late September 2012. For your reference, wind farms have been operating in Australia over 20 years, with over 1,300 turbines now in service. The Macarthur Wind Farm is the sixth wind farm that AGL has developed in Australia.

Our experience has shown that some people may claim that in their opinion, there is an association between health issues and wind farms. Often these concerns primarily relate to claims of noise or excessive infrasound being generated by wind farms. This opinion has been communicated in the public arena using terms such as "Wind Turbine Syndrome".

Extensive research has been carried out in relation to this topic. No less than 17 independent international studies have been conducted by credible authorities, all of which have rejected these claims.

The health and safety of our local community is our priority, and the amount of inaccurate information regarding wind farms that is in the public realm is very alarming. It is in this context that we wish to provide you with some background information on this topic.

The attached information has been produced by organisations that are focused on public health and not specifically the wind industry.

To summarise:

- The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is a coalition of organisations and individuals from the health sector, and includes health care professionals, health care service providers, institutions, academics, researchers, and health care consumers. Their position statement on wind farms is: (<http://caha.org.au/publications/position-statements/>)
 - *An expert review reveals there is no credible scientific evidence that demonstrates a direct causal link between wind turbines and adverse health impacts in people living in proximity to them*
- The Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released the following public statement: (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/new0048>)
 - *There is currently insufficient published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects;*
 - *Relevant authorities should take a precautionary approach; and*
 - *People who believe they are experiencing any health problems should consult their GP promptly.*

The NHMRC will be publishing an update to their review in May 2013.

AGL's primary objective is to ensure all our assets including our wind farms operate without unreasonably impacting the community. We are committed to maintaining factual based assessments of wind farms and sharing this information with the broader



community. If you feel it would be beneficial, we would appreciate your assistance where appropriate in directing any concerned patients to our project website agl.com.au/macarthur or our dedicated Community Engagement team on 1800 039 600.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9221 2402.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Shaw', written over a faint, light blue grid background.

Amanda Shaw

Community Engagement Manager

ATTACHMENTS: WIND TURBINE HEALTH IMPACT STUDIES

1. Climate and Health Alliance Position Statement
2. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Public Statement
3. Doctors for the Environment Australia, Health Effects of Wind Turbines: DEA Position Statement

Further reading:

http://www.goyder.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Attachment_5.pdf

http://www.awea.org/learnabout/publications/upload/awea_and_canwea_sound_white_paper.pdf