



Dear Senators Madigan, Day, Back, Canavan, Urquhart and Leyonhjelm.

I am a 63 year old widow, living 3 kilometres from the dreaded, Macarthur wind facility.

My life, now, has been changed forever, or until I can find someone to purchase my farm, so I can move on, and live somewhere, where there is NO INFRASOUND from wind turbines, to intrude and harm my health and wellbeing.

Since the beginning of operation of the Macarthur wind facility, I have felt a myriad of sensations, causing me to become anxious and frightened for my health.

My Late husband Maurice and I have lived on this beautiful farm for over 35 years.

We both put our hearts and souls into this property and developed lush pastures and we grew the most magnificent sheep and cattle. We were very happy.

We reared two beautiful children and now they have children of their own, our grandchildren, four delightful and gentle souls, who love their late "PA" and love to visit "their farm" and their "Nanna."

This idyllic picture was suddenly shattered, when, in 2006 we were visited by two people from AGL, telling us how grand the wind farm would be and how we would be saving the planet and asking us if we objected to the new wind facility being built nearby.

We had no idea what they were talking about.

Maurice and I always had a "feeling" for our land and we always wanted to do the right thing for our environment, as we considered ourselves, "conservationists", but in the true sense of the word, where NO-ONE is harmed. So we, of course, agreed, to having the wind facility nearby. We were even told that it would not interfere with our lives at all.

It sounded so good, we thought perhaps we could have some turbines on our land, too, as they would not harm anything, and we would be helping the environment, plus making a bit of money too.

What a lie. !!!

Maurice died in 2007 and I was left to oversee and continue running our farm.

When the Macarthur wind facility began to emerge from the demolition and destruction of the heritage stone barriers. I understood, then, what our decision was worth.

We had, of course, made the WRONG decision.

We had no idea, it would become a threat to one's life and physical wellbeing, when, in October 2012, it started operating. I started to feel uncomfortable sensations of vibration and heart palpitations and headaches, when the first 15 turbines started to operate.

This wind facility consists of 140, 3MW turbines situated too close to one another.

On the 10/11/2012, my son Adam was Married, and I, being widowed, had to make the speech on my own, to welcome the lovely new bride into our lives.

I did this with red, burning, watering eyes, and with a vibration continually running through my whole body, making me shake and sensitive to all noise.

After struggling with this enormous intrusion of vibration and shaking in my body, I had to leave before the Bride and Groom left, as I could not physically stand up any more and the music was playing on my "shot" nervous system.

I was a mess, to say the least.

My whole day was like that, as the night before the wedding, I endured the most horrific sensations of vibration, heart palpitations, head and eyes "wobbling" uncontrollably from side to side, and a deep feeling of trepidation and anxiety.

I spent the rest of my night before the wedding, on the two seater couch in the lounge room, with the cat.

It took me two more days after the wedding, to get over the lasting sensations of vibration, palpitations and shaking.

I was a wreck.

I thought I would speak to my local doctor, [REDACTED], at the Penshurst Hospital, about the sensations I had been experiencing since the Macarthur wind facility started operating.

He appeared to be a kind fellow and listened to my complaints and gave me reassurance that something could be done to rectify this situation.

After several visits, one day I was telling [REDACTED] about these sensations I had felt and thought it was the effects from infrasound from the Macarthur wind facility. I noticed a letter on his desk, with an AGL letter head.

I asked him what that AGL letter was doing on his desk.

He became agitated and pointed and tapped on the letter with his finger, looked at me, and told me that "infrasound won't hurt me and that I would just have to get used to it".

I was GOBSMACKED.

I made another appointment and challenged him regarding the whereabouts of that letter, but he could not produce it.

It had mysteriously disappeared.

On my last attempt to see the AGL letter, I was told, he could not find it and "it was none of my business".

I then wrote an email to [REDACTED], at the "Tristar" clinic, requesting the letter and did not receive a response.

I later obtained that letter from another source, and it was AGL telling the doctors in the area that if anyone presented themselves with symptoms from the Macarthur wind facility, to send them to the AGL website.

This, to me, is an obstruction and blatant interference to the medical system and an absolute arrogance from a business, who thinks they are above the law, to manipulate an outcome for their own financial gain.

This meddling and interference is unjust, this meddling and interference is unlawful, and this should not be allowed to happen in our society today.

During the time of the Macarthur wind facilities' operation, I, and many others, have sent in hundreds of health complaint to AGL, but, unfortunately, they fall on deaf ears.

What needs to happen is for AGL to carry out the same research as Pacific Hydro did with the assistance of Steve Cooper, at the Cape Bridgewater facility. Steve Cooper found "ground breaking" evidence that infrasound exists in the homes of the residents at Cape Bridgewater.

This noise testing should be MANDATORY with every existing operating wind facility in Australia.

The most important thing we need now is for the Federal Government to carry out a NATIONAL, INDEPENDENT, MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INTO THE HEALTH AND NOISE AT THE MACARTHUR WIND FACILITY and ALL WIND FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA.

The evidence of frequencies that are affecting the residents the Cape Bridgewater wind facility is a revelation. It shows that Multidisciplinary Research must be carried out and FAST.

It would be extremely negligent of any Government, to overlook the evidence. Therefore, Multidisciplinary research has to be carried out "in the field" and not just "behind the desk".

The NHMRC, with its last report was not done "in the field", therefore they did not know what was happening to the residents, as the residents were not interviewed or listened to.

The NHMRC recently said it would put \$500, 000 into more research. That is a "drop in the ocean", to how much money is REALLY needed to carry out proper multi-disciplinary research into noise and health.

Steve Cooper has now "unlocked" and created the most important "tool" of all, to be able to measure the frequencies that create health effects on residents, therefore creating a need for the wind industry to be held accountable for the ill health of residents living in close proximity to the Macarthur wind facility.

My doctor, [REDACTED], in Hamilton, acknowledges my concerns and tells me to leave my home, but it is of my opinion, that the medical profession is reluctant to say too much for fear of being ridiculed and ostracised by their peers.

This is total intimidation by AGL.

When wind facilities are built in close proximity to residents homes, the residents do not have a say in their own destiny.

The resident's destiny is manipulated by the greed of the wind industry. Government, both State and Federal who do not stand up for the people they are supposed to represent, by ignoring the hundreds of complaints from residents, peer reviewed reports since 1989 and letting the residents continue to suffer from sleep deprivation, is against all human rights.

Sleep deprivation is "torture".

The value of our farming land has been devalued and no one want to purchase land near a wind facility, therefor making the residents unable to protect their health by selling and moving on.

My "rates" valuation has recently been DECREASED by nearly one third of its former valuation. Why? In my opinion the close proximity of my property to the Macarthur wind facility has caused this devaluation. My farm is supposed to be my superannuation.

My farm has been on the market for over twelve months and I have not had any interest.

Seeing I cannot sell my farm, so I can move on, I am extremely concerned about my health which I feel is being compromised with the frequencies of Low frequency and infrasound emitted by the 140, 3MW turbines at the Macarthur wind facility.

I go to bed at night with very bad head pressure and am awakened several times during the night, most nights and find it hard to go back to sleep because I am WIDE AWAKE.

Twice now, I have feared for my life when my chest started to heave with heart palpitations and stabbing pains in my chest, my throat thickened and I could not move because of the pain shooting right through my chest into my back and for fear of it becoming worse.

Some nights I wake during the night with my mouth filled with saliva, which won't stop running, feeling nauseous and wanting to vomit.

Some nights I wake in an overwhelming bath of perspiration, where I have had to change my night attire, as it is wringing wet. These nights it feels like I am being cooked in a microwave, as if my insides are boiling.

Some nights I wake with vibration running through my body. The vibration leaves my muscles aching and sore with internal shaking as though my whole nervous system has been attacked.

I suffer from sleep deprivation every night, as I wake several times in a night and am so tired to start the next day.

I feel exhausted and I look exhausted. Even my family say I have aged since I have experienced these sensations and sleep deprivation, since the Macarthur wind facility has been operating.

Each time I experience these insidious sensations, I send in a formal complaint to AGL and all three levels of Government. Unfortunately very few respond.

AGL always responds by saying they are compliant and that I should see a doctor. They have covered themselves. They know, with the letter they sent to the medical clinics, that the doctors will tell their patients to get used to it and they cannot do anything.

If there was Multidisciplinary research into the health problems, the medical profession would not be so intimidated and frightened to speak out.

What are we to do? We are only people who pay our taxes and try to live a good life with our families. We do not create mayhem, we do not harm others, all we do is try to earn an honest living, and live our lives in peace and quiet on our farms which have no monetary value anymore.

It is our basic "human Right" to live on our land in peace and quiet and it is "Torture" to be subjected to sleep deprivation.

A group of more than 20 impacted residents issued the Moyne Shire with a complaint of "nuisance" under the Vic. PHWB act 2008.

Moyne Shire appointed 2 officers to systematically interview each family. As a result of their investigation the Moyne Shire determined that a "nuisance" did not exist.

However, apart from the 20 plus letters of complaint of "nuisance", the Moyne Shire, since October 2012, have received hundreds of individual complaints and NOT EVER given us the courtesy of a reply, let alone visited our properties to investigate for themselves. This is utter contempt.

I feel the Moyne Shire have taken the “easy way out”, as they feel they can “ride shotgun” over the residents, but they will not win against the wealth and power of AGL.

AGL, I am of the opinion, have exerted great pressure on the Moyne Shire, as they have become the Responsible Authority for Compliance of the Macarthur wind facility, with their Planning Permit.

The residents attended three Council Public meetings.

1. The first in September 2014.

Councillors voted 6 – 1 to determine Macarthur wind facility to be compliant, despite requests from the residents to DELAY votes, as residents possessed extra information and evidence, which proves Macarthur wind facility is NOT COMPLIANT and will not ever be capable of compliance. Our voices went unheard.

2. The second was in October 2014.

Councillors voted to accept Moyne Shire Council’s determination that Macarthur wind facility did NOT cause “nuisance” as per residents claim under the Vic. PHWB act 2008. Again our voices went unheard.

3. November 2014.

Councillor Jim Doukas moved a motion that Council accept the report presented on behalf of residents by independent acoustic expert Les Huson, which outlined that both peer reviews (by ARUP and SLR) are totally deficient and the irregularities etc. proved it impossible to determine Macarthur wind facility is compliant with its planning permit obligations. This time they refused to listen and we went unheard.

AECOM conducted noise testing on three properties and did so, disregarding all the regulations of the permit.

When AECOM gathered data every fortnight they found their batteries were flat, therefore unable to give accurate, or even, any readings, but that did not stop them from entering flawed data into their reports.

AECOM also disregarded the regulated distance of within 10 metres, for noise testing, from dwelling to monitor. In my case, the monitor was 21 metres away from my home. In another case they were over 30 metres away from the dwelling with flat batteries. And in the third case the monitor was several metres too far away with flat batteries, but was still able to provide the property owner with the noise data reading, when there was no reading because of flat batteries. A mystery.

It is shameful that a council, set up to protect its residents, treats those residents with outrageous contempt and with such a dismissive attitude, that they have become a liability to the people they are supposed to serve.

I feel, in my opinion that the Moyne Shire Council has “buckled” under extreme pressure from AGL.

I would like to have the opportunity to appear before a hearing of the Senate Inquiry, to tell my story of how the Macarthur wind facility has severely impacted on my life and livelihood, not to mention the devaluation of my asset, which is my superannuation.

I extend an invitation to members of the Senate Inquiry to visit my property and meet with affected residents to hear our personal stories.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Hetherington