

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Copabella Windfarm
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G'day folks,

For me, the most important factor in the wind farm discussion is the climate emergency we are now in. Over 95% of the world's scientists agree that we have less than 12 years in which to attempt to stabilize global warming. The universally agreed way to do this is to stop the use of fossil fuels and extend the use of renewables. Wind turbines are a powerful force in the renewables arsenal.

All over Europe, wind turbines, as small clusters and individual units, as well as extensive windfarms, are common. They are close to, and even within urban areas. In the Netherlands people walk, skate, ride their bikes and picnic under them. Only in Australia and the United States have the alarm and panic about wind turbines happened.

My wife and I have visited a number of windfarms, stood under the turbines, and been generally onsite and close to them for 2 – 3 hours at a time. Firstly, we have experienced no ill effects either short or long term. Both of us know our medical conditions well enough and none of them are attributable to wind turbines.

Secondly, I have looked closely at the engineering of the sites, particularly at Taralga where we found ourselves in a serious thunderstorm with a deluge of rain. I was out in it, opening gates for the bus, and I could see the concrete drainage systems rapidly clearing the water pouring off the road. While I am no expert in drainage, it was evident that this downpour was being handled by competently designed systems. Such erosion as I saw on the site was no worse than many farms around the perimeter.

Noise was negligible. The bus driver had to turn his motor off before we could hear noise from the nearest turbine. Once the motor was off, the windfarm director was able to talk with us in a normal voice, without amplification. At one point he turned off that turbine in order to demonstrate some fire safety procedures. When the blades stopped I was staggered. While, of course, there was no sound from the stopped turbine, we could also hear no sound from the other turbines around us operating at their rated speed.

The visual issue is a personal preference. There are a number of manmade structures that I object to in the landscape, but since they have a useful function I tend to live with them.

My wife and I took some trouble to find sources of evidence about the danger turbines present to wildlife, particularly birds, and it was very difficult to find peer reviewed, scientific evidence. Most birds of the magpie, cockatoo and smaller types fly below turbine height. The only birds likely to be endangered are eagles and a number of international windfarm operators are in the process of installing technology to protect such birds.

As far as ground level life forms are concerned, the fact that healthy sheep graze around the turbines, use them for shade and indeed scratch themselves on the metalwork of the stairs, indicates that they, at least, are in no fear of them.

These windfarms power tens of thousands of homes. In Europe, they power heavy industry. The Leipzig BMW car factory, a state of the art industry with extensive robotics doing all aspects of car manufacturing, is powered by four 2.5 Mw turbines.

The Netherlands now powers its entire electric railway system by wind power, including high speed trains.

The future is with renewables, it must be if we are to survive this century. Wind turbines must be part of that future and the Yass Valley needs to contribute its share to emissions reduction.

John Warner