



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission No: 164380
Organisation: <i>Save Our Woodlands Inc.</i>	Key issues: <i>Biodiversity, Noise and vibration, Agricultural impacts and land use</i>	
Location: <i>Location redacted</i>		
Submitter Type: <i>I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development</i>		
Attachment:		

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Save Our Woodlands

Objections to wind farms

Why do we want wind farms?

1. We think that wind farms will produce the electricity we need, but wind farms produce electricity intermittently, about 30% of the time and we will still need other forms of power as a back-up. Germany the supposedly "green" country of Europe, imports electricity from France and other countries, (Wettengel 2024), when their renewable energy is deficient. Germany also exports energy when they have excess which is the fluctuating nature of renewable supply. Renewable energy supplies do not provide us with base power.

2. We think that renewable energy supplies will reduce the production of green house gases, which is mostly CO2, but we have been producing renewable energy for thirty years and there has not been one glitch in CO2 production. See the enclosed graph from Lindsey, (2023).

Why is this? There is a strong relationship between income and per capita, and CO2 emissions so countries with high standards of living have a high carbon footprint. (Ritchie & Roser 2020). Basically its our consumption which drives up CO2 levels and since we have an economy which relies on continual growth, can we see a future in which we lower our consumption? I think not. Wind farms are not going to solve this problem.

For us at Save Our Woodlands the environmental impact is the most important consideration. Wind farms need large areas of cleared ground just to manipulate the blades into position, they also need extensive road works, a concrete manufacturing plant and huge towers to transport power back to the grid. We appear to be destroying the environment for projects that will not solve our electricity problems.

In addition, the noise from wind turbines can be heard, inside a house 3.5 km away from the wind tower according to research by Nicole Hashman (2019). Animals and birds use sound just as much as we do to communicate with each other. They also need to sleep and how can anything sleep while being bombarded by noise? The noise effect of the wind turbines increases the area of environmental impact affected by the wind farm. The turbines are 600 metres apart (minimum) and have an effective radius of noise of 3.5 km each side, totalling 7 km x 600 metres=420 ha for every turbine. How can we even consider that this is an acceptable loss of habitat in an already critically damaged environment?

The effect of wind turbine noise seems to be intuitive, but when I looked up references there are dozens of peer reviewed papers supporting the theory. In India a study indicates that certain bird and mammal



species avoided wind turbine-dominated sites (Kumara et al. 2022.) This is all very well but we have so little of our woodlands left where are they going to move to? We have already lost 95% of our woodlands (NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2022) and yet we want to destroy more. Isn't it ironic that the very Department who is proposing these wind-farms is the same one which is supposed to be protecting our environment. What chance does the environment have? Another peer reviewed paper states that wind turbine noise can have a detrimental effect on nearby wildlife, and can harm vital survival, social, and rearing mechanisms in certain species (Teff-Seker et al. 2022)

Here is a statement from the U.S Geological Survey (U.S.G.S., 2024). A key challenge facing the wind industry is the potential for turbines to adversely affect wild animals both directly, via collisions, as well as indirectly due to noise pollution, habitat loss, and reduced survival or reproduction. Among the most impacted wildlife are birds and bats, which by eating destructive insects provide billions of dollars of economic benefits to the country's agricultural sector each year.

Wind turbines kill both birds and bats, are we going to continue to decimate our already declining numbers of birds? For nearly two decades, wind and wildlife ecologist. Emma Bennett's company, Elmoby Ecology, has been using canines to count the victims of wind turbines in southern Australia. The numbers are troubling. Each turbine yields four to six bird carcasses per year, part of an overall death toll from wind turbines that likely tops 10,000 annually for the whole of Australia (not including carcasses carried away by scavengers). Such deaths are in the hundreds of thousands for North America. Far worse are the numbers of dead bats: The dogs find between six and 20 of these per turbine annually, with tens of thousands believed to die each year in Australia. In North America, the number is close to a million. (Zimmer, 2023.)

Australia's threatened birds declined by nearly 60% on average over 30 years, according to new research that reveals the true impact on native wildlife of habitat loss, introduced pests, and other human-caused pressures (The Conversation, 2019.) This research was carried out by the University of Queensland in association with Bird life Australia. At this rate we will have no birds left by 2050, maybe by then the Department of Planning and Environment will be contented.

Finally I would like to remind you that historically every civilisation that has wrecked its environment has failed, and if we keep on destroying what little environment we have left this civilisation will destroy itself. Its not my children and grandchildren that will die, its those city people who so desperately want wind farms for their electricity.

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