

Alby Schultz Warns of Wind Turbine Dangers

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With the Hume electorate the epicentre of the wind farm industry in NSW, and hundreds of turbines either in existence or on the planning books, Alby Schultz warned of serious health effects being experienced by residents close to wind farms.

“Thousands of people across the world, including Australia, experience dreadful illness, soon after wind turbines are installed close to their areas”, said Alby Schultz, Liberal Federal Member for Hume today.

The conditions, known as “Wind Turbine Syndrome” have been well documented in Australia, the USA, United Kingdom, and Canada, and include sleeplessness, dizziness, balance problems, memory loss, inability to concentrate, tachycardia, high blood pressure, headaches, nausea, mood swings, anxiety, tinnitus, palpitations, and depression. They have caused people to move abandon their dream homes. The conditions happen even to people who are receiving rent from wind companies to host the turbines on their land.

The problems, according to scientists including Australian acoustician Steven Cooper, stem from something called LFN, or “low frequency noise”, which he has measured inside homes close to windfarms. LFN travels a long distance and can easily penetrate homes and cars, and has been known to cause similar effects to those reported by sufferers.

Indeed Professor Richard Wiseman, University of Hertfordshire (UK), conducted an experiment in 2003 where he played a piece of music once with Low Frequency Noise embedded, and then again without, to 700 people. In that short time, 22% of people experienced anxiety, uneasiness, extreme sorrow, nervous feelings of revulsion or fear, chills down the spine and feelings of pressure on the chest. These results may explain why people living close to a wind farm day in day out experience the illnesses reported.

“If we were talking about the nuclear power industry, complaints would be heard world-wide, and governments would immediately do something to stop this. But, these things are only economically viable because the Gillard Labor Government subsidises them from your electricity bills, which they will keep doing,” said Alby

But the O’Farrell State Government is not spared from Alby’s scrutiny, with its planning department failing to take proper account of concerns about public health, as well as the visual blight on the landscape that the relentless march of industrial wind farms has become.

“There are about 1,000 wind turbines currently in Australia, and to meet the Renewable Energy Target there needs to be ten times that number. The United Kingdom already has close to 4,000 turbines in

350 existing windfarms, with that many again either being built, or in planning. This is the kind of environmental destruction that the State Government will allow to happen in New South Wales,” said Alby.

“The economics just don’t stack up without massive subsidies as well. 10,000 wind turbines is a waste of money bigger than the NBN – at about \$7million each. That makes \$70 billion! Each turbine has to be subsidised. I believe that each turbine earns its owner around \$500,000 a year, \$150,000 in electricity sold, and \$350,000 in subsidy. Who pays the subsidy? You, from your electricity bill,” Alby went on to say.

“Finally, to add insult to injury, the \$70 billion waste of money in wind turbines only works when the wind blows, about 30% of the time. Therefore, you need 100% backup in fossil fuel generator capacity, that only gets used very infrequently, otherwise there will be blackouts. This is what the Dalton gas power station, that Katrina Hodgkinson - State Member for Burrinjuck – has done nothing to stop, is being built for,” said Alby.

“The ‘green’ agenda is like a religious dogma of the worst possible kind. To criticise renewable energy (no matter what the cost, either economically or environmentally) is a heresy akin to speaking IN favour of nuclear energy. Facts, evidence, logic and reason seem to be the scarcest of all resources in this entire debate,” concluded Alby.