

I have worked in an area in close proximity to NSW Wind Farms. My colleagues and I have never seen anyone with wind turbine syndrome.

There have been many claims that turbines cause illness, and probably some people honestly believe that turbines have made them ill. So far as I have been able to find out, there is no regulatory, scientific or medical body in the world that supports the view that wind turbines make people sick. It is my opinion that the annoyance, anxiety and fear that some people who live near wind turbines develop may lead on to stress and psychogenic illnesses. This is greatly exacerbated by rumour-mongers who tell them they should feel sick if they live near wind turbines and irresponsible and lazy reporters who repeat these stories.

Some people do find the sound of wind turbines annoying and this causes some people sleeping problems however there are a huge range of annoying sounds in the modern world.

It seems that complaints about nearby wind farms, regarding illness or simply annoyance, are often related to negative feelings about the wind farms. A feeling that a wind farm has somehow violated a person's space can be very important. Psychologists have shown that perceptions are very important in regard to health.

As the NHMRC states, "examining whether wind farm emissions may affect human health is complex, as both the character of the emissions and individual perceptions of them are highly variable".

After careful consideration and deliberation of the body of evidence, NHMRC concludes that there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans.

There have now been about 24 reviews of the scientific literature that all produced much the same conclusion.

My major comment about the proposed development and the one under consideration here, is that the process of development itself has been highly divisive in the community and, it has been the way the development process has been undertaken that gives cause for my concern – the way it has been done has pitted neighbour against neighbour, often causing stress and anxiety in the community.



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