SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 1 of 14

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SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it Again" due to "Unbearable" Sleep-Destroying Noise

June 15, 2015 by stopthesethings 22 Comments



Clive and Trina Gare's property.

Clive and Trina Gare are cattle graziers from South Australia's Mid-North with their home property situated between Hallett and Jamestown.

Since October 2010, the Gares have played host to 19, 2.1MW Suzlon s88 turbines, which sit on a range of hills to the West of their stately homestead. Under their contract with AGL they receive around \$200,000 a year; and have pocketed over \$1 million since the deal began.

In a truly noble and remarkable move, the Gares gave evidence to the Senate Inquiry into the great wind power fraud during its Adelaide hearing, last week. Here's their tragic story.

> COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA **Proof Committee Hansard** SENATE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WIND TURBINES WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2015

Mr Gare: Thank you for inviting me to present my submission today.

My submission deals with the impact on my health and lifestyle living in close proximity to a wind farm. Let me say from the outset that we were excited about the prospect of being part of the renewable electricity industry. I am a host to wind towers on my property, the nearest being about 800 metres away with three towers within approximately one to 1.5 kilometres away.

We were not made aware of the impacts of noise on our health or lifestyle. Fortunately, we had heard from others that they were quite

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COMMUNITY































noisy. Luckily, in our contracts we inserted clauses about the need for noise mitigation.

I do wonder why though the wind tower operators inserted the following clause in all the hosts' contracts section 77C, which is on the memorandum of lease which I will table:

The landlord acknowledges and agrees that it is adequately compensated for any noise or inconvenience caused as a result of the permitted use of the site or the land and that it will not seek any further compensation from the tenant in relation to such matters.'

If the wind tower operators were confident of their impact studies, that clause would not be necessary.

After a short period of living with an operating wind farm, we had these products installed. I find that, because I work and reside in close proximity to the wind farm, I suffer sleep interruption, mild headaches, agitation and a general feeling of unease; however, this occurs only when the towers are turning, depending on the wind direction and wind strength.

My occupation requires that I work amongst the wind towers during the day which means I suffer the full impacts of noise for days at a time without relief. The impacts are that we are not able to open our windows because of the noise at night and we are not able to entertain outside because of the noise.

In conclusion, if we did not have soundproof batts in VLam Hush windows, our house would not be habitable. In my opinion, towers should not be within five kilometres of residences, and I would personally not buy a house within 20 kilometres of a wind farm. Thank you.

Mrs Gare: Good afternoon Senators, and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for letting me speak to the committee today. I would like to open my statement with the following: developers and construction. In the beginning, I was excited about the wind farm and of course the financial security for our property and family.

The process began with high-pressure consultations, negotiations for weeks on end, numerous phone calls and face-to-face meetings with the developers. We seemed to be under constant pressure to agree to their wishes and, if we wanted any changes, it took a lot of negotiation.

We had to try and foresee any problems that may impact on our lifestyle for the next 25 years plus. With little or no previous information to go on, this was a very taxing time. Having gone through this, I would like to see that a person or persons – probably with a legal background and wellschooled in wind turbine information – be contactable for future wind farm hosts for advice and even to help with negotiations with the development companies.

Construction was also a very stressful and challenging time. The landowners are up against not only the power company but also all the big contractors and civil works companies. Any meetings with the above parties had to be attended by both of us with me taking notes so that we had some kind of record of what was said and what matters needed to be addressed at the time.

We had a lot of erosion problems from the pads and roadways, which we had to chase up with the power company to get them to address. During construction there were lots of problems with gates left open, boxing up mobs of cattle which then took a full day of redrafting and settling back into their paddocks.

We also had gates opening onto public roadways. We have a main bitumen road that goes past our property. This caused great angst as far as public liability is concerned, if our stock got out into the roads. We also

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SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 3 of 14







































had lots of rubbish scattered around the property. We witnessed one of our cattle eating a one metre by one metre piece of plastic sheeting.

Living with wind turbines.

Our house is solid sandstone, built for the late Charles Hawker in the 1920s, with concrete internal walls and a steel roof. The house is surrounded by a lot of vegetation and trees. I have brought some photos to show the Senate.

In the months after the towers started in October 2010, the noise was unbearable, especially when two towers became in sync. A loud thumping would radiate throughout the house. Even watching TV in the furthermost room from the towers, you could hear them. Sleeping was most difficult. I use, and still do, an earpiece radio every night, which helps block out the noise to a certain degree. If they are really going I have to up the volume.

After some time, due to a very slow installer, the house was finally insulated: sonobatts in the ceiling cavity; all our outside air vents blocked; a special American glass called Vlam Hush, which is two sheets of glass with a special gel between, were installed in every door and window of the house. This has improved the situation for me considerably, but at times the noise still penetrates into the house.

Ongoing issues.

Due to the house being sealed we have refrigerated air conditioning, because we cannot open windows because of the noise. A separate meter was installed on the wind farm operator's advice, so that they could pay the cost of the air conditioning usage. That went in over 12 months ago and we are still chasing payment.

Another issue is the increase in our emergency services levy. The value of our property has increased by double, which has had a major increase in the levy. The power company pay council rates on the land that they lease, and we pay rates on the rest. We brought up the issue of the increased ESL with the power company, but they have not addressed it. We feel they should be responsible due to the increase in our land value. I have the value difference here: I think it is about \$1.6 million increase. I quote from the contract, 6.1, rates and taxes, section B:

However, during each year of this lease the tenant must pay any increase in rates and taxes above the rates and taxes that were payable immediately before the start of the agreement to lease, if the increase is directly attributable to the works or the use of the site for the permitted use.

We also have ongoing problems with the cables which run across our property and connect into the individual towers to transport the power to a substation. There seem to be constant cable breakages, which have to be dug up and fixed. This, of course, happens all over the property. Having 19 towers, it has quite a big impact. Quite a large area is disturbed and then has to be recovered with sand or soil.

We have asked for compensation concerning this, as we have numerous cable breaks on the property with disturbance to our pastures, which interferes with our stock grazing. This was discussed at a meeting back in August 2014. We are still waiting for compensation, which is agreed by the wind operators. As you can see, they are not fast movers.

The land owners need to know their rights in regard to their property and how it is treated during and after construction of towers. Land owners with residences close to towers need to be made aware of the noise impact and there should be discussion of how close towers should be permitted to their premises. In my opinion, towers should not be any closer than five kilometres to a dwelling. If we had to buy another property, it would not be within a 20-kilometre distance to a wind farm. I think that says it all. these things in South Australia... fb.me/4vM7gC7dL 1 day ago

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SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 4 of 14























We have a son who will come home in a couple of years, and I have concerns for him and a family that he might have in the future, with regard to any health problems that may arise. Having lived with towers now for five years, in my opinion future hosts should glean as much information as they can and find out their rights so they can fully understand what they are taking on.

Senator XENOPHON: I would just like to ask some questions to Mr and Mrs Gare. I think the fact that you are hosts of wind turbines and you are giving evidence is significant. How many turbines are there on your property?

Mr Gare: Nineteen.

Senator XENOPHON: How long have you had them there?

Mr Gare: Five years.

Senator XENOPHON: And when did your start complaining about the turbines in terms of the adverse impacts?

Mr Gare: Straightaway.

Senator XENOPHON: Is it AGL that you are dealing with?

Mr Gare: Yes.

Senator XENOPHON: You may want to provide us with any documents in respect of this. How did they deal with the process? Once you raised the issue, what happened?

Mr Gare: We had it in our contract that if we found there was a problem they would put in noise mitigation products. We said: 'You will have to do it. We cannot bear it.' Because it was in the contract they went along with it, but I am sure, Nick, that they would not have if they did not have to.

Senator XENOPHON: It is a contractual relationship so it is under the terms of the contract. Are you able to say – and you may not want to – what level of payment have you been getting? If you do not feel comfortable saying how much you are being paid for the 19 turbines on an annual basis, you do not have to.

Mr Gare: All up, in total, about \$200,000, so there is not a lot of advantage for us in coming here today.

Senator XENOPHON: When you experienced the noise, could you stay in the property or did you have to move out?

Mr Gare: If we did not have the noise mitigation products put in, we would have moved out.

Senator XENOPHON: Prior to the noise mitigation products being put in, how did it affect your sleep? Did you spend more time away from home?

Mr Gare: Fortunately, we have eastern rangeland country where I could go to get away from it. As I said in my submission, I am there 24 hours a day in amongst it. I had to go away to wind down. What was your question, sorry?

Senator XENOPHON: What period of time was it from the time the noise affected you until the time you had the noise mitigation – several weeks or several months? How long was it?

Mrs Gare: I reckon it took about 15 months or more. We had a very slow installer of the batts and things.

Senator XENOPHON: You are protected by parliamentary privilege when speaking out here today. Did AGL say to you: 'Sometimes this happens. It is just one of those things'? Did they give an explanation as to the level of disruption? Did they say, 'This has not happened before'?



Mr Gare: No. It was all glossed over right from the start. We were given no information.

One of their little tricks is to take people right up to the towers and say, This is how noisy they are.' But that is not so.

The further you get away from the tower the noisier they are. That is a funny thing, to a point I guess. When you are right underneath them and they are 80 metres up in the air there is very little noise. There is just a bit of wind noise. As you go away one or two kilometres it actually gets worse.

Senator XENOPHON: Before the noise attenuation or noise suppression in your home what was your quality of life like?

Mr Gare: Crap, to put it honestly.

Senator XENOPHON: You got a bit of sleep each night, didn't you?

Mr Gare: With earplugs, yes. I wore earplugs constantly – only while they are turning, mind you, and providing they are in the right direction and have the right wind strength. Frosty nights are the worst because the sound tends to travel so much clearer and further on a frosty night. But earplugs.

Senator XENOPHON: Anything else, Mrs Gare?

Mrs Gare: No. Pretty much what Clive has said.

Senator XENOPHON: Do you sleep okay now?

Mrs Gare: No, they were waking me up on the weekend. You wake up to the thumping. This is with all the soundproofing in the house. As I said, I sleep with the radio on every night. If they are really cranked up I have to turn the volume up, so I will probably just go slowly deaf.

Senator DAY: I just want to clarify something. Frosty nights are normally not very windy.

Mr Gare: That is a funny thing. Our country is very hilly, and they put wind farms on top of hills. It can be blowing an absolute gale on the top of the hills and you can have frost in the valley.

Senator DAY: It is just that we have heard evidence that, even when the blades are not turning, they do have a similar infrasound impact on people because of the effect of the wind across the blades, across the aerofoil.

Mr Gare: Yes, but if there is that much wind the blades are turning, aren't they?

Senator DAY: That is right.

Senator LEYONHJELM: If you had your time over again, would you host a wind farm?

Mr Gare: No, absolutely not. If I were a rich man, I would not have a wind farm on my property.

Senator LEYONHJELM: And you said it was \$200,000 over five years approximately?

Mr Gare: No, 12 months.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Per year.

Mr Gare: Yes.

Senator LEYONHJELM: That is a fairly healthy income.

Mr Gare: Absolutely.

Senator LEYONHJELM: In spite of that, you would say that you would not have them.

Mr Gare: Absolutely, if I were a rich man, but unfortunately I am a farmer and there are not many rich farmers around.

Senator LEYONHJELM: What sort of farming?

Mr Gare: We are grazing, we can be cropping but we -

Senator LEYONHJELM: Sheep or cattle?

Mr Gare: Mostly cattle.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Has there been any effect on your cattle from the wind farms?

Mr Gare: No.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Okay, thank you.

Hansard, 10 June 2015

[Hansard available here as HTML and here as a PDF (the Gare's evidence commencing at p55)]

The evidence given by Gares will have ramifications for the wind industry, in Australia and beyond. To call it a major development in the 'debate' about the impact of incessant turbine generated low-frequency noise and infrasound on human health, is mastery in understatement.

You see, the shills that run propaganda for the wind industry – including a former tobacco advertising guru – run the story that it's only "jealous" wind farm neighbours who complain about wind turbine noise, "jealous" because they're not getting paid; and that those who get paid to host them never, ever complain (see this piece of cooked-up propaganda piffle here).

The Gares pocket \$200,000 a year for the 'pleasure' of hosting 19 of these things; and, yet, make it very clear that it was the worst decision of their lives.

To describe the noise from turbines as "unbearable"; requiring earplugs and the noise from the radio to help them get to sleep at night; and the situation when the turbines first started operating in October 2010 as "Crap, to put it honestly" – is entirely consistent with the types of complaints made routinely by wind farm neighbours who don't get paid, in Australia and around the world.

The Gare's evidence is also entirely consistent with the experience of David and Alida Mortimer, also paid to host turbines for Infigen at Lake Bonney, near Millicent in SA's South-East (see our post here).

Despite AGL spending tens of thousands on noise "mitigation" measures, the noise from turbines continues to ruin their ability to sleep in their own home, as Trina Gare put it:

No, they were waking me up on the weekend. You wake up to the thumping. This is with all the soundproofing in the house. As I said, I sleep with the radio on every night. If they are really cranked up I have to turn the volume up, so I will probably just go slowly deaf.

With the aid of their pets at the NHMRC, the wind industry continues the fluff about there being no evidence of adverse health impacts caused by wind turbines (see **our post here**). However, the evidence given by the Gares – as to the routine sleep disturbance caused by turbine noise – is, in and of itself, conclusive proof of adverse health effects.

The World Health Organisation has viewed "noise-induced sleep disturbance ... as a health problem in itself" for over 60 years – its Nighttime Noise Guidelines for Europe – the Executive Summary at XI to XII which covers the point – says:

NOISE, SLEEP AND HEALTH

SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 7 of 14

There is plenty of evidence that sleep is a biological necessity, and disturbed sleep is associated with a number of health problems. Studies of sleep disturbance in children and in shift workers clearly show the adverse effects.

Noise disturbs sleep by a number of direct and indirect pathways. Even at very low levels physiological reactions (increase in heart rate, body movements and arousals) can be reliably measured. Also, it was shown that awakening reactions are relatively rare, occurring at a much higher level than the physiological reactions.

The review of available evidence leads to the following conclusions.

- Sleep is a biological necessity and disturbed sleep is associated with a number of adverse impacts on health.
- There is sufficient evidence for biological effects of noise during sleep: increase in heart rate, arousals, sleep stage changes and awakening.
- There is sufficient evidence that night noise exposure causes selfreported sleep disturbance, increase in medicine use, increase in body movements and (environmental) insomnia.
- While noise-induced sleep disturbance is viewed as a health problem in itself (environmental insomnia), it also leads to further consequences for health and well-being.
- There is limited evidence that disturbed sleep causes fatigue, accidents and reduced performance.
- There is limited evidence that noise at night causes hormone level changes and clinical conditions such as cardiovascular illness, depression and other mental illness. It should be stressed that a plausible biological model is available with sufficient evidence for the elements of the causal chain.

STT tends to think the World Health Organization – after more than 60 years of studying the problem – might just know a thing or two about night-time noise, sleep and health. And, after more than 5 years of suffering, so do Clive and Trina Gare.

Notwithstanding a \$200,000 annual pay-cheque, and thousands spent on noise 'mitigation', the Gares still can't sleep properly; or otherwise enjoy their own home – their suffering continues.

Against that backdrop, it's to be noticed that the lunatics that pass for our political betters keep advocating for ever decreasing set-backs for turbines from residential homes: in South Australia, it's currently a derisory 1,000m; in Victoria, it's just been cut by the recently installed Labor government to 1,000m, too – although their wind industry masters are pushing to cut that measly distance even further.

So, it is more than just significant to hear from people who've had to live up close and personal with these things for over five years, especially when over that period they've pocketed over \$1 million for doing so – Trina Gare observing, in the same terms as Clive, that:

In my opinion, towers should not be any closer than five kilometres to a dwelling. If we had to buy another property, it would not be within a 20-kilometre distance to a wind farm. I think that says it all.

The other point that arises loud and clear is the developer's use of bullying, lies and deceit in order to get the Gares into their contract in the first place – starting with lies about the impact of turbine noise, Clive pointing out:

One of their little tricks is to take people right up to the towers and say, 'This is how noisy they are.' But that is not so.

The further you get away from the tower the noisier they are. That is a funny thing, to a point I guess. When you are right underneath them and they are 80 metres up in the air there is very little noise.

SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 8 of 14

There is just a bit of wind noise. As you go away one or two kilometres it actually gets worse.

And that type of skulduggery was being pulled amidst the usual inordinate pressure applied to unwitting farmers by developers, described by Trina as a process that:

began with high-pressure consultations, negotiations for weeks on end, numerous phone calls and face-to-face meetings with the developers. We seemed to be under constant pressure to agree to their wishes and, if we wanted any changes, it took a lot of negotiation.

All tricks; all traps; and all to the developer's advantage.

Standard tricks, like telling the potential hosts – on a one-on-one basis – the very same story: "that all of their neighbours had already signed up". Words usually uttered at a point in time when the developer had not signed ANY contracts in relation to its proposed development at all. Pressure often being added by telling the targets that they needed to sign up quickly, because if they didn't they would be holding up hundreds of \$millions in investment, hundreds of jobs etc, etc.

Working on the adage of "loose lips sink ships", on each occasion, the farmers being targeted were told that they mustn't breathe a word about the contract being offered to any living soul: so much easier to perpetuate a lie when it can't be tested by your target with a quick phone call to their neighbours.

In order to add a little more pressure to their targets – and to get their monikers on the contract being offered – the developer's goons would tell the target farming family that, because everyone else had signed up, they would end up with turbines right up to the boundaries of their properties (sometimes within a few hundred metres of their homes); so they "may as well sign up anyway", because that way they would at least get paid for hosting some turbines on their own property.

The thrust of the developer's pitch being that: your life is going to be ruined by dozens of turbines on your neighbour's property, so you may as well receive a few grand a year for your pending troubles.

The same set of lies would be told repeatedly; until such time as ink appeared on all of the contracts needed to get the wind farm project off the ground, and on its way to a dodgy-development approval. The ruse has been used in numerous cases in Australia, in the USA and elsewhere:

Turbine Hosts' Lament: Hammered by Wind Power Outfits; Hated by Former Friends, Relatives & Neighbours

On the strength of what the Gares have told Australia's Senate, STT can only offer this advice to any farmer considering entering a landholder agreement with a wind power outfit: DONT.

And, if you're in a contract, do whatever you can to get out of it NOW. We suggest you obtain competent, independent legal advice on avoiding the kind of suffering thrust upon the Gares.

No matter how much you get paid, your home, along with those of your neighbours, will become practically uninhabitable. Moreover, you are unlikely to remain friends with your neighbours.

The Gares got into their contract at a time when nobody in South Australia knew about how noisy and disruptive giant industrial wind turbines could be in quiet rural environments But, that's all changed now. Plenty of rural communities are now suffering in precisely the same manner described by the Gares.

The Gares – along with plenty of others in the same position – were played by wind power outfits for dupes; as their evidence attests.

SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never Do it... Page 9 of 14

Admitting to a mistake takes honesty and personal integrity; admitting to a colossal mistake, even more so. However, to not only do so in public, but to your Parliament, exhibits moral decency - especially given the potential of that admission to operate as a sobering warning to others who have made, or who are likely to make, the very same error.

STT hears from its operatives at the hearing, that the Gares were warmly thanked for telling their story publicly. One who did so was STT Champion, Marina Teusner, from SA's iconic Barossa Valley; and a voice of reason for the solid local group dedicated to killing off Pac Hydro's threat of turbine terror for Keyneton (see our post here). Marina, in tears, embraced Trina Gare and gave her heartfelt thanks for what the Gares had just done.

As we said above, what the Gares have done is both remarkable and noble: these fine and decent people deserve the gratitude and sympathy of all; from those in their community, and well-beyond.

What they also deserve is that our political betters admit their mistakes; and immediately correct the errors that have led to the single greatest policy disaster in the history of the Commonwealth. After what the Gares have done, anything less is a monstrous insult.



Are you listening, Tony? The Gare's story not only deserves your complete attention, it requires immediate action by you.

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SA Farmers Paid \$1 Million to Host 19 Turbines Tell Senate they "Would Never D... Page 10 of 14



About stopthesethings We are a group of citizens concerned about the rapid spread of industrial wind power generation installations across Australia.

Comments

	howgreenisthis says: September 5, 2015 at 12:41 pm
	September 5, 2015 at 12:41 pm

Reblogged this on How Green Is This.

Reply

Harry Amey says: July 20, 2015 at 5:36 pm

Even the Indian Army know that infrasound causes distress to humans http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2317320/Delhi-Police-unveil-new-weapon-combat-protests-Anunbearable-noise-device-originally-used-PIRATES.html

Reply



Yes, thank you Clive and Trina Gare, and to Trish Godfrey and the Stepnells for giving evidence at the Senate hearing, and thank you to STT for being on the right side.

Reply

Thank you says: July 4, 2015 at 10:48 pm

Thank you to Clive and Trina Gare for their courageous honesty and integrity.

It speaks powerfully and truthfully to the lies and disinformation spread by wind industry mercenaries and charlatans.

Reply

Daniel Boon says: June 20, 2015 at 10:46 am

Anyone heard of 'furphy'? It's a polite way of saying bullshit; and this site is hell-bent on exposing the biggest furphy of all: that modern economies can replace a properly designed power generation and distribution system with a entirely weather dependent 'technology' that was abandoned in the 18th century. Keep it up, eventually the dimwits that still live at home with mums and dads, and who have never paid a power bill in their lives will wake up.

Reply



Mr & Mrs Gare, moral citizens and turbine hosts, make many profound observations of the turbine companies intentionally misleading and deceptive conduct. The following is a real gem given it is a favourite stunt of the wind industry's propaganda machine to mislead the public (and politicians).

"One of their little tricks is to take people right up to the towers and say, This is how noisy they are.' But that is not so.





Attachment 3.



Public view location PM9 Blakney Creek South Road - Existing view north to east south east. Photo coordinate Easting:680365 Northing:6159222 (MGA255)



Public view location PM9 Blakney Creek South Road- Proposed view through 120°. Approximate distance to closest visible wind turbine 4,000 m (updated distance 3,066 m)

Notes

Composite panorama photograph taken with a Nikon D700 digital SLR camera with 50 mm prime lens.

Individual panorama photograph coordinate map datum is MGAz55 to \pm 5 m.

Extent of potential wind turbine visibility and directional bearing illustrated on each photomontage is indicative only. The Nikon D700 digital SLR camera with a 50mm lens results in a single photograph with a view angle equivalent to a 35mm digital SLR camera photograph taken with a 50mm lens.

Refer Figure 31 for photomontage locations

Indicative extent of a single frame photograph (in landscape format) taken with the Nikon D700 digital SLR camera with a 50mm lens Figure 40 Rev A Public view location PM 9 Blakney Creek South Road



Rye Park Wind Farm Pty Ltd



RYE PARK WIND FARM

