

# **Mortlake South Wind Farm is a Nuisance Case Waiting to Happen.**

## **The Story of Acciona and Mortlake South Wind Farm thus far...**

It seems if you are a wind farm business you can do as they please.

A wind farm business is only accountable to its off-shore investors.

There is no Regulatory Watch Dog in Australia and no enforceable industry standards for operational wind farms.

Their only statutory requirement is to provide power to the grid.

No standardised or regulated certification is required. Wind farms are free to write their own reports or pay their loyal consultants to write the reports on their behalf.

The focus is on renewable energy generation not public safety – and no one really cares how they do it.

No one takes responsibility for unconscionable conduct - No one wants to open the can of worms.

There is no Industry Regulatory Authority for wind farms to report to.

- There is no watch dog to oversee standards.
- There are no industry scrutiny of plant and equipment.
- Biosecurity controls are not enforced.
- False noise reporting is not detected, wind farms can fabricate any noise report without question.
- Noise complaints circle back to the wind farm to fix – usually with a Neighbour Agreement offer.

## **Acciona is a Spanish owned company operating in Australia**

Acciona saw an opportunity to build a wind farm close to the transmission line infrastructure in South West Victoria.

They prospected farmers, many of them elderly and signed them up as hosts.

They inserted the usual life-destroying clauses that required the farmers to agree to noise nuisance and potentially the decommissioning bill if the operator shoots through (becomes absent).

***Wind farms will say “we only have to comply with the permit” – and this is what the permit says....***

The wind energy facility operator must, no later than 2 months after any or all wind turbines have permanently ceased to generate electricity, notify the Minister for Planning in writing of the cessation of the use. Within a further 12 months of this date, the wind energy facility operator, or in the absence of the operator, the owner of the land on which the relevant turbine(s) is/are located, must undertake the following to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning within such timeframe as may be specified by the Minister:

## **The Responsible Authority (Moyne Shire) has a vested interest in the wind farm business – Acciona slipped them 200k cash to get the project up.**

Acciona didn't have the collateral to qualify for a permit, so they offered Moyne Shire \$200K to provide a “*Letter of Support*”. Moyne Shire grabbed the cash and signed over The Sisters and Kolara prime farming land to this Spanish Wind Company

The Warrnambool Standard June 12, 2020, writes:

“Acciona wind farm funded Moyne Shire Council Job raises angst”.

*...“Renewable energy company Acciona has offered to pay for the two-year Moyne Shire Council job at a \$200,000 cost as part of its agreement for the Mortlake Wind Farm with the state government”.*

# Marshall Day Acoustic uses a falsely concocted Noise Prediction Theory

Acciona engaged Marshall Day Acoustics (MDA) to draw up the Noise Prediction Map

With no industry regulator to scrutinise theories, MDA has been free to concoct a noise prediction (bullseye) map based on the false assumption that noise spreads out in a radiating sphere like a light globe.

## Turbine noise does NOT work like a bullseye – This is a False Theory

Noise shoots out from behind and in front of turbines like a torch beam – it does NOT spread out so evenly in a bullseye pattern as presented by MDA.

The pulsations from Turbines are concentrated in a downwind direction - like a torch beam.



The interaction of the airflow from upwind and downwind turbines and changes in wind direction can dramatically change the noise pattern and levels of the pulsations.

The noise contours relate to the minimum level and do not identify the variation in the noise levels.

The noise contours do not relate to noise disturbance, nuisance, or sleep disturbance.

This false point source (bullseye) theory, without any correction for airflow disturbance and directivity of the sound pattern, is conveniently used to pacify neighbours.

The Politicians (Planning Ministers) accept this false theory without question – and so the wind farm is built on incorrect assumptions.

## A burning Turbine demonstrates how Noise is directed out like a torch beam.



Turbine noise does NOT spread out like a bullseye or a radiating sphere (like from a light bulb) around the point source (turbine).

The blades create a concentrated spiral of air turbulence flow downwind of the turbine,

The noise is directed out like a torch beam to specific locations, with distance between 1.5 and 3.0 kms away most impacted.

<https://youtu.be/cRVB2i6ZWOU>

## Then Bald Hill happened, and Acciona realised they were light on Technical Evidence.

Acciona sacked MDA and brought in Resonate Acoustic Consultants to fox up more technical evidence to use against the neighbours in court.

They broke all the rules. They attempted to undertake Background Testing (with proxy/paddock loggers) after the wind farm was built.... *The Neighbours are on to them.*

**THEN the Cherry Pickers rolled up on site.**



The Locals were expecting the wind farm to start in late 2021 – but in December cheery pickers started rolling in.

Workers could be seen positioned halfway up the blades.

They appeared to be working at the same spot on each of the blade.

Strange tapping noises were clearly audible.

Acciona reported to the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) meeting that they were undertaking non-destructive testing of the blades.

Acciona did not admit to “Tap Hammer Testing”.

An immediate red-flag went up - Non-destructive testing is used to identify faults in blades.

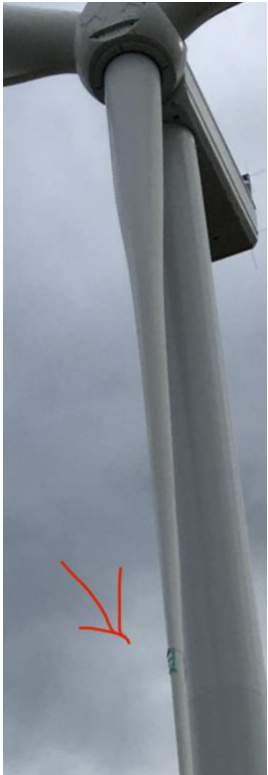
**Moyne Shire showed no concern – they have their 200k – they’re happy. 😊**

**THEN they started Cutting Square Holes in the Blades**

In April 2022 - The Cherry Pickers re-appeared on site – but this time no tapping – just big black square holes.

The workers cut huge square holes in the blades – It seems at the same location as the Tap Hammer Testing.

At night, or during rain, they covered the holes up with plastic and stuck the plastic down with green tape.



**And the Saga Continues...**

# Mortlake South Wind Farm is a Noise Nuisance Case Waiting to Happen

- As the Responsible Authority (Moyne Shire) has a vested interest in the wind farm business, they can be questioned in court as to whether their impartiality has been compromised.
- In the first instance there are questions about the integrity of the blade documents and specifications.
- The non-destruction testing and subsequent cutting of the blades in the same location on each blade infer the blades have manufacturing faults.
- There is no Regulatory Body to oversee the repair works.
- There is no guarantee that pieces of equipment or fibreglass have not accidentally fallen into the body of the blade increasing the loudness of the unusual or special audible characteristics of the turbines.
- There is no guarantee that cutting huge holes in the blades have not weakened the blades, therefore creating a risk of blade throw.
- We know dinged up surfboards snap in half, there is no guarantee that dinged up blades won't do the same.
- As the faulty turbines are only a few metres (approx.. 70m) from the road, there is a high risk of death due to blade throw.
- There is no guarantee that the dinged up blades won't cause the engine to malfunction resulting in fire.

## Moving Forward – Living with Mortlake South Wind Farm

### Diaries

It is important to honestly report your genuine lived experience.

Only record what you hear and when you hear it – ensure the date and time is accurate.

Record the health impacts (sickness) you are experiencing.

Do NOT pre-empt problems with the blades – this is for your lawyer, consultants, and the wind farm to argue out.

### Complaints

Continue to submit your complaints to all the relevant authorities (as per *Educating the Lawyers – Lesson 3*)

An individual must show a history of complaints to demonstrate that the noise nuisance has caused an unreasonable interference to their life.

Complaints must only be submitted in response to a noise nuisance occurrence and not for the sake of submitting a complaint.

Don't try explaining the technical problems you think may be causing your unreasonable noise nuisance – leave that up to the experts.

Continuous and persistent complaints over many months or years are required.

***Complaints must reconcile with diary accounts..... they must be genuine.***