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25 April, 2012

Mr. Jeremy Maycock, B.Eng  
Chairman  
AGL Energy Ltd  
Locked Bag 1837  
St. Leonards, NSW 2065

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B.Sc. MBMS, MBA

Dear Mr. Maycock,

I find it curious that AGL, one of Australia's oldest companies, if not the oldest, a leader in the generation and distribution of energy, does not respond, or if it does responds in a rather dismissive way, to informed advice about the health impacts of wind farms.

Perhaps you consider us uninformed. More likely your corporate objective is maximising shareholders' profits through meeting your renewable energy target and knowing enough about renewable energy to understand the only practical way of doing this is to deploy large scale wind projects in windy areas close to existing power distribution infrastructure.

You know the truth about wind power. That is, it is a huge consumer of capital, increases power costs to the consumer, creates a few green jobs but destroys several downstream jobs for each green job created, produces no net savings in greenhouse gas because of the need to couple it almost megawatt for megawatt of otherwise unneeded open cycle gas generators, when the whole desired effect could be so much more economically and greenhouse gas efficiently obtained by building combined cycle gas generator capacity.

You know nearby homes become uninhabitable and some people can't escape because those sick houses are not saleable and they have no other assets.

Now these facts have been known to engineers for a long time and yet are being avoided or denied directly, or by the use of partial truths, by the industry and a range of technically ignorant renewable enthusiasts and some non-engineering academics. The engineers are of course right but these matters are mostly all about wasting public money, destroying jobs and impairing power consuming industries and who cares – 'the government wants us to do it and the public pays for it anyway and our profits are guaranteed and if we don't do it the government penalises us. Lets keep our head in the sand and pretend its all a good thing.' The above matters are not ones the Waubra Foundation gets involved in, but we are concerned about the disastrous health impact on farming

families who never saw this coming. Some of them were persuaded to support the industry but never told the real facts.

The whole process is immoral. You say 'we met the guidelines'. You know the guidelines on noise are incompetent. You know that turbines erected to meet these guidelines will cause damage to people. Deployment of wind farms under old guidelines by a company that has the technical intelligence to know better, is immoral. So what do you do? You hang on to the strings of several professors, the NHMRC's pathetic surveys, and when the day comes will claim 'oh we didn't know that, we were assured by.....'

We have offered you help and advice. Our knowledge is respected around the world. We have tried to engage. We have to try and protect these people. Direct engagement is not possible. We will have to find other ways. However I will be available to take a call from you at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Mitchell, AM BChE  
Chairman