



**Dr Michael Spence**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

28 February 2014

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Dear Ms Rovensky

Thank you of your letter of February 7 about Professor Simon Chapman, which I understand you have also published on a website.

I can advise you that Professor Chapman has no financial ties with the wind industry nor anyone acting on their behalf. However, like all universities, the University of Sydney encourages its staff to engage with industry and has procedures in place to ensure the integrity of such engagement.

His most recent research about claims that over 40 Australian families have abandoned their homes near wind farms did not require clearance from the University's Human Research Ethics Committee. Following other representations, its Executive ruled that no breach of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research had occurred.

Professor Chapman is one of the University's most senior academics. He is widely published and cited in the peer reviewed literature across a range of subjects, including wind farms and health. Last year his contributions to research and public health were acknowledged by being made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO). He is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. His work on wind farms explores psycho-social aspects of the distribution, timing and diversity of complaints made about wind farms. All health and medical problems have sociological and psychological aspects to them, and the University greatly encourages multi-disciplinary contributions to building understanding of these aspects.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Spence'.

Michael Spence