

The message Sandi Keane is replying to is below this message:

From: Sandi Keane [<mailto:deputyeditor@independentaustralia.net>]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2013 9:22 AM
To: Warwick and Megan Read
Cc: David Donovan; Callum Davidson
Subject: Wind Rally

Dear Warwick and Megan

Thank you for writing with your concerns. I am more than happy to respond.

First of all, let me stress that, as a journalist who takes her job seriously, I am only interested in the facts - not propaganda put out by the fossil fuel lobby or anyone else. The claims about "wind turbine syndrome" have been well and truly debunked (see my link) as I'm sure you now know - especially after the last study by Fiona Crichton. My only interest is that communities are given the facts. What is clear to anyone who has investigated this subject (as I have) is that the only complaints in Australia centre around just 6 wind farms where the Waubra Foundation (founded and chaired by the proprietor of Lowell Mining Resources) has campaigned the heaviest.

At the NSW Senate Inquiry, the conclusion was that the fearmongering by vested interests via the Waubra Foundation in particular was responsible for the reported stress symptoms (sleeplessness, high blood pressure, etc.). Prof Simon Chapman told the rally in Melbourne the story of two film makers travelling around Europe on the trail of any evidence of "wind turbine syndrome". In the end, they said they had to stop asking questions as people thought they were absolutely mad - akin to asking about Martians (they said).

As to numbers at both rallies, I can find no mention in the media of attendance of 200 at yours. A couple mentioned 150 but that included a very large media contingent and onlookers passing parliament house as they do at any time of day. By the same token, most have reported 600-700 at the pro-wind rally, some saying it was 10:1, whilst IA reported 500. The photos were taken by Callum Davidson who attended both the anti and pro wind rallies. As reported in the piece, I attended the Melbourne rally.

What everyone in the media does agree on is that the anti-wind rally was poorly attended and the pro-renewables rally a great success. Several news media ran this photo:



ANTI-WIND



PRO-WIND

As to the concerns of the anti-wind protesters, these were outlined in our article - although I have not found them elsewhere in the media. I have, however, been prompted by your email to post a video on the site showing that 19,200 times more birds die as a result of houses and buildings than wind turbines. I lived in the country for 20 years and at least 3-6 birds would die as a result of hitting the windows each year - mostly parrots, sadly.

I'm not surprised that there is division in the community when such threatening letters from the Stockyard Hill Community Guardians are sent to prospective turbine hosts.

I have no argument with anyone who does not like the look of wind turbines. That is their opinion which they are entitled to. But I do have a problem with the phony health claims which exist nowhere else in the world other than the USA and Australia (both home to a powerful fossil fuel industry) or claims of bird deaths - when the reality is that the complainants simply don't want them to spoil their view. I think you'll find if you used that argument instead of the nonsense put out by the anti-wind groups, people would understand.

As to looking after farmers, I had a long discussion with farmer Karen Molloy when I visited Waubra last year. Karen was so distressed about the Waubra Foundation's trashing of their town's good name that she sent a complaint to ASIC to have them remove the name. Anti-windies talk about property values but see nothing wrong in naming a bogus "disease" after a

country town. Karen was at the pro-wind rally yesterday along with others from the Waubra community.

If you read IA, you'll see that I've written extensively on the need for our prime farm land to be a no-go zone for CSG miners. To date, I have not found one single Landscape Guardian group campaigning against the destruction of prime farm land by CSG miners nor open cut quarries for coal. As you are involved with the Western Plains Landscape Guardians, perhaps you could explain why wind farms are so bad for farmers but not CSG mining?

I hope for the sake of the Stockyard Hill community that your community is given the real facts rather than swayed by shadowy groups like Stop These Things who used a proxy server in Texas to register their website and who are afraid to declare who they are, who funds them and where they are based. It was your choice to attend an event organised by someone like this so you shouldn't be surprised that such an organisation has little credibility compared to genuine community groups who are proud to have their organisers, funders and contact details listed on their website (like the groups attending and running pro-wind rally). It was also your choice to attend an event headed up by someone like the disgraced Alan Jones who has called for the PM to be thrown out to sea in a chaff bag, said her father died of shame and presided over another rally with such nasty, vile signs as "Ditch the Bitch". Jones symbolises everything that is sick about Australian media and you complain about IA? Are you surprised that the media has such little respect for him? As for Stop These Things, I see that they have deleted every single reference to Tuesday's event - as if it never existed! Clearly, they (whoever they are) saw it as a failure as well, like the media did.

In conclusion, as I said, *Independent Australia* is happy to report the facts and will continue to do so.

With kind regards,

Sandi Keane | deputy editor

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-----Original Message-----

From: Warwick Read

Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2013 10:50 AM

To: editor@independentaustralia.net

Subject: Take great offence at Sandi Keane's article "Wind taken out of protestors sails in Canberra"

Dear Editor,

Ms Keane's attempt at journalism with the "Wind taken out of protestors sails in Canberra" bought me to tears. I attended that rally and it was far from what she reported and photographed. The picture was taken before the guests speakers arrived, the other bus loads of protestors were delivered and even prior to the lectern being erected for the delivery of transparent, non wind

industry funded truths from a start line up of MP's to the grass roots of effected farmers.

I cannot express how disappointed and shocked I am that Ms Keane would blatantly deliver the Wind industry propaganda and Green's political message before getting her facts together.

Here are the truths:

The Wind Power Fraud rally was attended by 200 rural farmers that went to great expense and time to get to Canberra to demonstrate their anger and concern over the economic deception that the RET and REC is. Together with other wind farm issues such as adverse health effects, decreased land values and a break down in community connectedness, I'd say that's worth fighting for and strongly pursuing a fairer outcome. We have no hidden political agenda, are not funded by outside sources and give factual peer reviewed evidence to support our arguments.

Respect and empathy are two basic human traits of which Ms Keane obviously does not have. I am leaving my phone number if she would like to get in contact with me to hear a truthful story about a traumatic 6 year journey of fighting a local wind farm and the toll it has taken on my young family, my livelihood, wellbeing and the rural community I live in.

Megan Read
Stockyardhill, Western Victoria