I would like to make comment on the DEDJTR’s regional economic development strategy and service delivery model which is being reviewed.

Wind farms have in the past been seen as great initiatives to grow jobs in regional areas. However they are NOT a solution.

The Macarthur wind farm is a case in point. There were a number of short term jobs in the construction phase, but there are very few ongoing jobs. Promises by developers of economic gains in local towns proved to be false. Local business owners, who were seduced by developers into believing there would be money spent in their towns, and employment for locals, were very disappointed as there was minimal increase in trade. Local publicans who thought they could cash in on workers passing through upped their prices, but lost the support of locals. This loss of trade continues to this day.

Local councils were also told there would be great benefits, but our local roads were made unsafe by both the increased traffic, and the wear and tear to road surfaces and shoulders. The costs of repair are ongoing and falls on both local councils and VicRoads.

Severe sleep deprivation caused by the infrasound coming from the wind farm impacts on the productivity of adjoining landholders. There are also health and safety issues that arise from sleep deprivation.

The local residents had very little say in this invasion of our lives.

Planning guidelines have largely been written by the developers, or their “pet” consultants. Once the wind farm was approved the configuration of turbine placement and the size of the turbines were changed without further reference to locals.

This “development” has impacted severely on our lives. The only winners appear to be the developers and the host farmers who “earn” hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and don’t, or have no intention of living next to the turbines they have inflicted on us!

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