Wind energy

Did you know?

Wind farms are already part of the national electricity network

Wind energy forms an important part of a broad mix of energy supply technologies. The power grid is a dynamic system, designed to deal with and respond to changing demand and to manage a range of fluctuations, including the variable output from wind farms. [1]

Property values maintain market trend near wind farms

Anecdotal evidence in reference to land sales near wind farms suggests that property values remain largely unchanged by wind farm installations. In some instances prices for properties have even increased (e.g. Esperance, WA). Studies in the USA and Denmark have found there is little to suggest that wind farms impact negatively on the value of neighbouring properties.[2]

Wind farms have an extremely low impact on birds compared to other human activities

Rigorous planning processes ensure that the risk to rare and threatened birds is fully assessed before a wind farm can go ahead. A 2001 US study estimates that bird deaths from wind farms is less than 0.02 per cent of the total bird deaths caused by collisions with human built structures. Despite the relatively small impact, we take each collision seriously and rely on expert assessment of any real or potential impacts.[3]

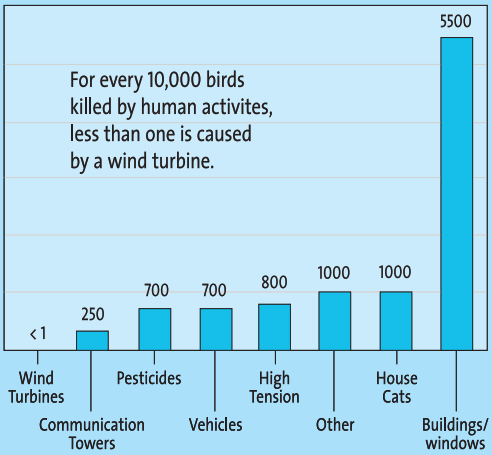

Image of the wind farm is from Cullerin Range (NSW)

1 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.4
2 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p,11
3 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.10

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The risk of fire at a wind farm is very low

This is because all flammable components are located well above the ground while all high-voltage connections are safely housed underground. Each turbine is also fitted with a comprehensive lightning protection system that safely transfers any high voltages or currents directly to the earth without affecting turbine performance. [4]

Stock and crops are unaffected by turbines

There have been no reports of decreased production from farms as a result of having wind turbines on the land. Animals graze normally around the towers without any discernible impact.[6]

Modern wind farms are quiet

You can hold a normal conversation at the base of a running turbine without having to raise your voice. Advances in technology mean the mechanical sound from modern wind turbines has practically been eliminated. The planning process ensures that noise from all turbines is determined before the wind farm is built to ensure it is within the acceptable range.[5]

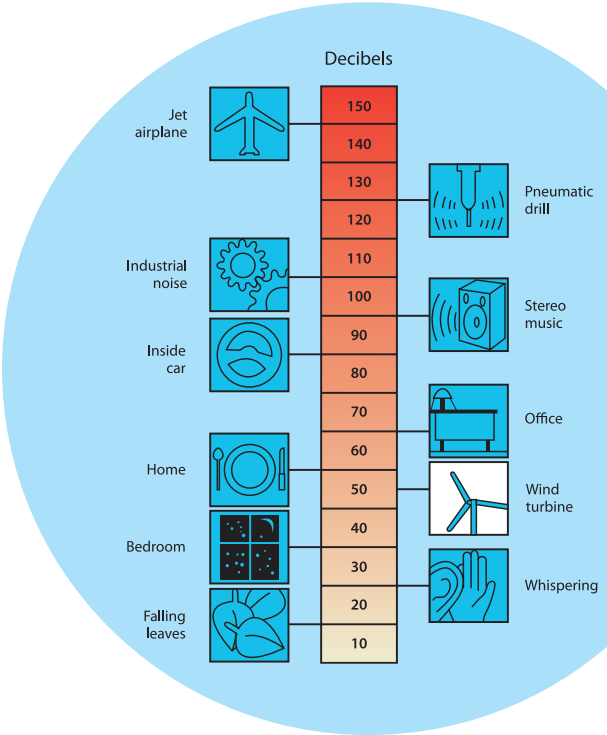

Image of the wind farm is from Wonthaggi (Victoria)

4 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.12
5 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p. 10
6 Sustainability Victoria, 2007, Myths and Facts p.10

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