Bradley Kermond

The Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012

I support the proposed amendments to the renewable energy act, as above.

The renewable energy certificates should not be given to noise polluters. There needs to be regulation for noise to be monitored by presenting the raw data in real time on the internet. The impact of noise and vibration has affected my family we are now homeless.

What is the problem? Noise, vibration, or other. What is the type of noise source? How far away from the nearest noise source do you live?

The problem includes both excess noise and vibration, audible and inaudible.
The type of noise source is from the neighbouring wind farm at Cape Bridgewater.
My house is 1.5 kilometres from the nearest noise source, a wind turbine, one of twenty-nine.

How often do you have problems, and what is the pattern? What makes you think the problems are related to the noise source?

I have problems daily that are only happening when I am near a wind farm or high voltage electricity. The more the wind farm is heard the more I have difficulties.

When did they first start? (E.g. when the noise first started, or weeks, months or years later)

Mid 2008, July, I began noticing the noise when the wind farm had been operating for several months.

What have been the consequences? (Effect on sleep, new symptoms and health problems, and any changes to pre-existing conditions e.g. physical and mental health)

The major symptom is affecting my mental health in terms of searching for an identity as with the wind farms forcing us out of our own home I am confused of what the future beholds for my family and I. My ability to cope with the challenges of everyday life is poor as this burden that has been laid upon us makes me suffer from anxiety, depression, frustration and anger from losing my family home of 15 years, my best mate who was my neighbour at Cape Bridgewater who moved to a town four hours away, the family dog which died from excessive noise exposure, and now our standard of living.

Other syptoms:headaches,nausea,sensitive hearing,sleep problems, tiredness, breathing difficulty, anxiety and irritability, heart palpitations, body pains and pressure in my head.

What helps alleviate or improve the symptoms?

Leaving the area where the wind farm and the power lines are placed.

What happens with ongoing exposure to the noise?

We just get so unwell physically and emotionally.

Are the symptoms affected by wind and weather conditions? If so, what wind and weather conditions are worst for you?

They seem to change as the weather conditions and wind strength and direction changes.

Other effects (effect on income earning capacity, safety on farm and on the road e.g. near misses, effect on the family, extended family and community relationships)

Not being able to live in our own home is debilitating .Our neighbours, friends and our small local community have also been affected (socially, emotionally and economically) from the noise pollution.

Have you ever had to leave your home, either temporarily or permanently in order to regain your health?

Yes several times as a temporary shelter then moved out in May 2010.

Have you ever slept away from home because of these problems?

Yes we have slept at the houses of friends and family. We even camped at a nearby beach for refuge.

Have you told your family doctor or other health care providers? Were they able to help you? My family doctor has a full history of my problems.

What do you think about the proposed amendments to the Bill, which are designed to ensure that noise pollution which is harmful to health cannot occur and that if it does it is detected and action is taken?

We need help, there is no regulation for wind developers and the neighbouring residents are suffering.

Any other comments?

I am studying year 12 in 2013 and need to have a stable environment. It is very hard to achieve my best as a refugee from my own home. Please accept the amendments to the renewable energy Act for excessive noise regulation. People do not leave their homes unless there is a major problem.