

31/10/12

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

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our concerns about the lack of control measures in place for noise pollution (both audible and non audible) by Wind Farms.

We are a family living 35km South of Orange, NSW. We currently do not live next to a Wind Farm, but there is a proposal for the Flyers Creek/Benerree Wind Farm being reviewed. This Wind Farm will be within 1.8km from our house.

Although we do not live next to a Wind Farm, we do live next to Cadia Valley Gold Mine. Our family has lived here since the Mine began operating. The Mining industry has measures in place to control noise levels. There are noise levels that the mine cannot exceed. If they do they are held accountable. This should be the same for Wind Farms and excess noise.

In the past we have had problems with excessive noise from Cadia Gold Mine, but there has always been someone we could contact about the noise. The Community Relations Officer would personally take calls at any hour of the day or night if we felt the noise was too bad. In one case, we were woken at 3am by an irritating, continual, droning noise. We called the Mine and within 15 minutes the noise had stopped and we were informed that a pump was faulty. We have also been able to get noise monitors placed at our house when we felt the noise from trucks working on the Tailings Dams was getting too loud. Many nights have been spent struggling to get to sleep due to noise from the Mine, as well as being awoken during the night (as you are probably aware a lack of sleep can be attributed to many health problems), but we have always been able to contact someone relating to these disturbances.

Wind Farms should also be made to have these measures in place. There should be someone the public should be able to contact if they feel the noise is too bad, and noise monitors should be available to all residences close to Wind Farms, in case the noise exceeds a certain value. If there are any exceedences then the Turbines should be made to stop, until the problem can be rectified.

We hope you consider our opinions.

Yours Sincerely

Geoffrey and Vanessa Knox