From:
To: Committee, EC (SEN); Madigan, John (Private)
Subject: Senate Inquiry-Renewable Energy (Electricity) Bill- Excessive Noise Amendment submission
Date: Friday, 2 November 2012 12:24:19 PM

To the Senate Committee for the Inquiry into Renewable Energy -excessive noise amendment:

"**I support the Excessive Noise from Wind Farms Bill 2012 amendments to the**

Renewable Energy Act, because of concerns nationally and internationally, contradicting wind sector claims of no problems overseas, in particular:

1). Repeated media claims by the wind industry of no noise, despite independent testing and findings by the South Australian Supreme Court, wind farms were 'not capable of satisfying the Environmental Pollution Authority's wind turbine noise limit of 40 decibels' recorded at distances up to and including 3.5km (Shute 2012- also see appendix 1.) supported by reviews and noise related issue assessments placed under scrutiny by Thorne (2011) Knopper & Olsen(2011) and Doolan (2011)

2). The duty of care to many rural communities and Councils who lack infrastructure, skills, legal knowledge and effective voice to raise community awareness (Gamboa & Munda p. 1564; Graham, Stephenson and Smith 2008, p. 3349; Hindmarsh 2010, p. 548).

References:

Gamboa & Munda (2006) 'The problem of windfarm location: A social multimedia framework', *Energy Policy,* Vol 36 : 3, pp. 1564-1583

Knopper, Loren D & Olsen, Christopher 2011, Health review of wind turbines: A review of literature, *Environmental Health,* Vol 10: 78.

Shute, Victoria (2012), 'Windfarms- Environmental and economic saviours of our sunburnt country, or a disaster in waiting. The present and future of planning laws and regulations governing wind farm developments' Paper presented at the Planning Institute of Australia 2012 National Congress.

Regional Council of Goyder 2011, Submission to the Statewide Wind Farms DPA.

Thorn, Bob (2011), The problems with 'Noise Numbers' for wind farm noise assessment, *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society,* Vol 31, 4, pp. 262-290.

3). The legal requirement that as a Lic Real Estate Agent, I am required to declare any impediment to the possible enjoyment of a property purchase within the distance found of 3.5 km where noise was demonstrated to exceed legislated noise levels, having a significant negative impact on property prices and length of sale in my business area.

4). The associated stress, as a result of loss of restorative sleep through noise, perceived financial and earning ramifications of property devaluation through recognised public perception that noise is considered a health problem near wind farms in an addition to other factors including the loss of state based television, causing an increase in the rate of rural depression and possible suicide. I entreat the Committee that this be addressed in a full inquiry and report into why Goyder recently registered the top rating for suicide in South Australia, the location and aetiology of rural suicides in possible close association with wind farms.

Appendix:
1.disputing the SAERD Court decision in ‘Quinn & Ors v Regional Council of Goyder and Anor’ finding that AGL’s Hallett 2 or proposed Hallett 3 wind farm

Felicity Martin