From:
To: Committee, EC (SEN)
Cc: Senator Madigan (Private)
Subject: Excessive wind farm noise
Date: Wednesday, 31 October 2012 1:53:58 AM

To the senate committee
My name is Bill Nicholson,
My son and his family live 800 metres from what I call the "..crown of thorns…" which are erupting out of the Australian landscape at Cape Bridgewater. They shifted to their dream and final home in Jan 1996.

Before the turbines appeared we would visit them on regular occasions. The trip to visit was eagerly anticipated as a peaceful retreat. In Geelong I awaken at 7am no matter how late I retire. On our first visit I slept till 10 am. The family was amazed and had checked on my wife and I because they thought I might be sick or worse. We used to laugh about this a lot.

This was put down to the area having no traffic noises. Waves crashing ,storms etc, nothing would wake me or stop me from falling asleep.

Since the turbines were operational this is no longer the case. I get aloud ringing in my ears and get a headache behind my eyes. It seemed strange but it felt like my brain was vibrating in time with the turning blades. I felt as if my heart was jumping out of my chest when was awoken in the middle of the night.(I thought this was a heart attack)

We made this trip down once the wind factory started because we are all passionate about preserving this beautiful planet.

After my son drove us home and I saw my doctor (he said "…you are fitter than most people 30 years younger than you). We eat over 90% organic food, of which much comes from our garden. He said maybe you were tired before the trip was made.

Because we cut this trip short we returned 2 weeks later and was surprised my wife got a migraine at Narrawong (50 km's) from the turbines which got worse the closer we got to the Cape, while my headache behind my eyes started about 10 km's away. My ears started ringing about an hour after we arrived. We did not even stay the night. We have not been back. My son works part time in Geelong and looks like he is not rested. My wife is that concerned she insist's he catch the train. When his family visit they look terrible. What is this doing to my 10 year old grandson. They can't afford to move. They need help.

I have since done a lot of research and it seems that low level infrasound is the probable cause. This is unable to be heard by the human ear. I read recently that a Hamilton vet "..increasing number of sheep dogs are unable to control when nearby turbines are operating…". This makes sense as the dogs hearing is much more sensitive.

In short wind factories must not be heard. They sound like planes that never land. Coming from a scientific background I believe that wind companies are manipulating noise readings by using yearly averages to give the misrepresentation that they are meeting noise guidelines. They are definitely louder than a quiet library as they claim. If these companies cannot meet

these guidelines they should be made to hand back and not receive any more of the many millions in subsidies which is now offered. (Until they become compliant, after all this is written in their permits). How many schools , hospitals etc could be built if this money was spent elsewhere. I'm sure your constituents would show their appreciation. Could someone show me when and where the coal fired turbines have been turned off as I can't find this information anywhere.

Regards Bill Nicholson.