Sonia Trist, 31 October 2012.

Not confidential.

I WISH TO SUPPORT THE RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) AMENDMENT (EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM WIND FARMS) BILL 2012.

EXCESSIVE NOISES (audible, inaudible and vibrations) are emitted by the 29 turbine wind farm adjacent to my home at Cape Bridgewater, Victoria. Operational since mid 2008, life for many of the 80 or so residents, has changed.

The nearest turbine is 600 meters from my house.

The noise emitted by the turbines, ranges from a deep constant humming, when they are scarcely operating, and are slowly turning by grid power, to a grinding noise, whooshing of blades and repetitive groaning sounds.

The southerly, south westerly and westerly winds , produce a more threatening velocity. The easterly and northerly winds each produce degrees of change and impact. At night it is terrifying to go into the garden when the towers are roaring and whooshing. We came to live by the sea for the extremes of climate. The industrial noises of the Wind Farm are unnatural and not for comparison with the roar of the sea and wind.

Living as we do, in one of the most beautiful areas of Australia, it is depressing to be constantly aware of the invasive nature of the gigantic turbines, whooshing and grinding along the Discovery Bay edge of the Cape, the Great South West Walk and across the sand dunes.

Information displayed by the company at the Blowholes, Cape Bridgewater.

Tower height	69 meters
Minimum distance between towers	250 meters
Nacelle weight	67 tonnes
(Nacelle houses generator and gearbox)	
Blade diameter	82 meters

Weight of blade and hub 40 tonnes

Tourists from Overseas and other parts of Australia frequently surprised comments about the turbine noise at the Blowholes car park. The closest turbine is 40 - 50 meters at the roadside.

My house is over 100 yrs old, a timber construction on a limestone foundation and corrugated iron roof. It has an early settler section of limestone blocks. Deemed Heritage, it has recently be demarcated as being within the wind farm Buffer Zone. This is of great concern and restricts my living conditions even further.

Several families have vacated their homes because of the excessive noise, vibrations and discomfort of their living conditions. Abandoning homes and taking their mortgages with them, is a programme of yet more stress, all evolving from the EXCESSIVE NOISE factor of life near wind farms.

Three acousticians have explained audible and inaudible noise to me, also the penetrative nature of vibration. One acoustician has visited my home and examined the most affected areas of the house. The main bedroom is now used for storage only. The laundry, studio and dining areas cannot be used when the Power Station is operational. The kitchen is also affected.

The symptoms experienced are sudden piercing head pain, ear popping and pain, pressure in the centre of the chest which is like a sudden punch, a heaviness of limbs, a feeling similar to the onset of nausea, very low energy and feelings of confusion. I find it difficult to form words when the turbines are roaring. Frequent urination is a concern.

Sleep is of very poor quality. We frequently leave the house and travel some distance away to a motel to catch up sleep for a night or two.

For the last three days, the wind farm has not been operational. This is a very rare occurrence. It has not happened in four years.

Residents are rejoicing in being able to sleep and feel so much more normal. Everyone is commenting on it and phoning each other to remark how wonderful it is to have the normal conditions of the Cape back. In a matter of three days the atmospherics have changed.

The missing factor? EXCESSIVE NOISE and its accompanying symptoms.

As is the case with some other residents, my house could not be sold now. My family is stressed on my behalf. Growing older, I am faced with walking away and abandoning the property to dereliction.

Item 5.

The mandatory publication of noise from wind farms is long overdue and should have been instigated from the first installation in Australia.

I hope with all my heart, that the work of Senators Madigan and Xenophon will be heeded and standards of protection will be reinstated and upheld.

Sonia Trist.