SUBMISSION TO SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) AMENDMENT (EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM WINDFARMS) BILL 2012

SUBMISSION BY:

Ron and Chris Jelbart

I write in support of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.

As I sit writing this I am conscious of the noise coming at me from the Macarthur Wind Farm.

At this stage there are only 30 of the 143 turbines turning. They have gradually increased the number operating over the last two and a half weeks. This number will continue to grow until all 143 are operating by January 2013.

The noise in my kitchen is audible and continuous, even though the windows are closed, and the wind is stirring the pines to the west and the trees in the garden. Already my husband is losing sleep. The noise on a couple of nights has woken him 3 or 4 times, interrupting his sleep.

We do not know what the consequences will be as more turbines are brought into commission, but fear that our health will suffer as has happened to so many others, both here in Australia, and in many countries overseas.

We wonder if we will be two of the refugees, forced to leave our home because excessive noise drives us out.

The developers have to be held accountable. This can only happen if they are required to monitor noise continuously over the full spectrum of noise, and not just audible sound. This information must be uploaded to the internet and available for people to access in real time. This information must also include reference to wind speed and direction, and weather conditions as well as the amount of power being produced at any time.

Those developers who create excessive noise, audible, low frequency and infrasound, and who don't make the information required by the Bill public must have their renewable energy certificates cancelled.

We would welcome the "*independent health studies incorporating experts from all related fields*" that was recommended in the report into the social and economic impacts of rural wind farms.

Until that happens we are confident that the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012 will give us protection from excessive noise and the right to sleep peacefully in our own beds at night.