Patina Schneider

2nd November 2012

To The Senate Committee

Re**: The Senate Inquiry for the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.**

I wish to lodge a submission to the Senate Inquiry in full **SUPPORT** of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.

My reason for **supporting** this bill is due to the overwhelming amount of evidence and data that I have personally collected on several wind farm developments and current information, research and data that is available.

Since discovering that our rural area was under threat from a proposed industrial wind energy development in late 2010, I have endeavoured to find out as much as possible about how wind farm developments could possibly impact my community and the negative effects wind farms produce generally.

It didn't take long to realise that people all around the world were complaining about the negative effects from noise and vibration. The more research I undertook made it blatantly obvious that noise regulations (or lack thereof), were clearly letting down the communities surrounding wind energy developments. What was also clear is the fact that the turbines in operation and causing harm were much smaller than those being planned in our community and many other areas of Australia.

After speaking to affected residents and reading about their experiences, it was obvious something needed to be done to find out why these people were experiencing sleep deprivation, health impacts (physical and mental) and stress that were consistent with the exposure to industrial wind turbines. What was even more disturbing was the fact that when my husband questioned an Acoustician involved with an established UK Acoustic Company about the impacts of industrial wind turbines, he was told to **"sell up and get out while you can".** When he asked for copies of reports on noise impacts from wind farms, he was told they were unavailable and "classified".

In an endeavour to obtain more facts from people living near to industrial wind energy developments and the issues they were experiencing, I took it upon myself in August 2012 to undertake a survey from all residents within 10km plus radius of the Cullerin Range Wind Farm. After reading about the survey Mary Morris conducted around the Waterloo Wind Farm in South Australia earlier this year, I thought it would be appropriate to base the survey on the same questions Mary used. The results from the Cullerin Range Wind Farm Survey clearly indicated that noise is a major

contributor of the problems that a large percentage of that community experience. Please find attached the full report and summary of the Cullerin Range Wind Farm Survey.

In closing it is your responsibility as our elected representatives to protect the rights and health of all Australian citizens and to ensure that the inappropriate siting of wind energy developments have very little or no impacts on rural residents in particular.

Clean Energy from renewable sources is wonderful objective but should not be at the cost of minority Australian communities and their health, so it is important to realise that the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012 could help to protect those who are and those who could be affected.

Yours sincerely

Patina Schneider