Crispin Trist

(Not confidential)

Herewith my submission in support of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012

Our situation:

My name is Crispin Trist. I was born in the United Kingdom. My mother is Australian and she currently resides in Cape Bridgewater, Southwest Victoria.

I am a 45 year old male artist / musician. I have written music for television both here in Australia (SBS), and in the United Kingdom (Channel 4). I am also a DVD producer of transport films. My principle place of residence is in the city of Bristol in England. However, I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to the Renewable Energy Bill because, my mother`s home here in Australia has been imposed upon by the construction and operation of the ------- ----- Wind Energy Facility in Cape Bridgewater, Victoria.

The closest 2 megawatt wind turbine is located approximately 600 metres from the rear of my mother`s home, and stands 110m in height to the tip of the blade. My plans for a return to the UK have been thrown into turmoil as I am seriously concerned about my mother`s situation, aswell as the state of her health and wellbeing.

Whilst living at the property, I too have started to experience some of these noise and health concerns. I am here in Australia to try to help resolve our family situation as my mother cannot remain in her home. I cannot leave her in this predicament. I fear the Edwardian and early settler heritage property of " --------" is now threatened with abandonment as we feel that we can no longer live in such close proximity to the wind turbines.

In an effort to better understand our situation, I have included the Cape Bridgewater site information board statistics to be found at the Blow Holes car park. This states the following information regarding the facility:

Windmills	29 two megawatt ------- generators
Operating speed	Between 3.5m/s (12.6km/h) - 25m/s (90km/h)
Tower manufacturer	------ ------ ---------- (locally made)

Tower height	69m
Minimum distance between towers	250m
Nacelle weight (the Nacelle houses the generator and gearbox)	67 tonnes
Blade diameter	82m
Weight of blade and hub	40 tonnes

- Please note the use of the word "Windmill". I suspect the word is used in an effort to connect with both children and adults, and to conceal the true nature of these industrial scale turbines, as nothing more than a harmless childens toy! These toy windmills are so often used by the Wind Companies as a public relations device, thus securing the interest of a future generation in the multinational, Global Wind Industry. The word " Farm" is used in a similar subterfuge.

Noise nuisance:

The following letter to the Glenelg Shire Council, Environmental Health Officer dated thursday, 19 April 2012, shall I trust shed more light on our predicament:

Dear ---- -------,

Thankyou for returning my phone call.

My complaint relates to the property owned by ----- ----- at --- -------- Road, Cape Bridgewater. My name is Crispin Trist, her son. On the 16th, 17th and 18th of April 2012, I was residing at the aforementioned address also.

On these dates the nearby Cape Bridgewater Wind Power Station Facility was in operation with strong winds from the east. The noise was excessive and was clearly well above the ambient background noise. Sounds from nature such as the sea could not be heard behind the loud pulsating whoosh whoosh, and generator sounds of the turbines. These sounds were entering our family home on the southern side of the property, and indeed the master bedroom cannot be used. The closest turbine is approximately 600m away. Please note this is not the only wind direction to cause concern.

Owing to the nature of this noise it was extremely difficult to get to sleep. I lay awake for most of the night as it was impossible to do otherwise.

I wish to lodge a noise complaint for the nights of 16th and 17th April 2012, and the early hours of 18th April.

Prior to the Wind facility being built, these sounds did not exist in this rural environment. Now they can happen at any hour of the day or night. Once you upset sleep you upset a whole host of other potential health problems, of which we are increasingly aware. It is a basic right of the residents of the Glenelg Shire to sleep at night.

Yours sincerely,

Crispin Trist

We have forwarded this email together with our subsequent correspondence with ------- ----- to the DPCD (The Department of Planning and Community Developement). There is no clear avenue of complaint or resolution in this matter.

We chose not to lodge an official complaint with the wind developer as we have lost faith in their findings. From our knowledge of how the wind industry works, and the experience gained from actual interactions with ------- ----- , we do not trust them. By way of an example of this, we met with two ------- ----- representatives to discuss our noise and health issues openly with them here at our home in Cape Bridgewater. We asked as to whether there had been any other complaints. The two reps looked at one another and said, " no". As Cape Bridgewater is a small, but fractured community since the turbines came, it was of no surprise to subsequently learn that there were indeed other noise and health concerns by other residents. In actual fact the two reps had only just visited some friends of ours to discuss another noise and health complaint prior to meeting with ourselves on that very same day! How are we supposed to trust ------- ----- if they can lie to our faces about something as simple as this.

Further to this issue, we have consulted with both professional acoustic consultants and the DPCD. Based on this advice, it would appear obvious to get some independant noise monitoring done at our home. We should not have been placed in this position. My mother simply wished to purchase a beautiful home here in one of the most spectacular rural locations in Australia. Now she is expected to understand and pay for a professional acoustitician to back up her concerns!

In addition to these issues, my mother has recently discovered that her home is now within a "Buffer Zone" surrounding the wind facility. A buffer zone is described in the dictionary as both a shock absorber, and a zone that protects from harm! A sort of no-man`s-land if you like. Where does this place our living situation now?!!

Noise / Health:

As the noise issue does keep us awake at night, this does in turn start to affect our health and wellbeing. I would also like to point out that both my mother and I experience many of the health issues raised in the debate surrounding "Wind Turbine Syndrome". It is very hard to explain our concerns to doctors and health professionals who simply have not lived for several years alongside a 110m high 2 Megawatt wind turbine located just approximately 600m away. In certain weather conditions they can be turning for 24hrs a day. From my personal experience, the issue is real. Something IS going on!

Some months after the turbines started operation, I started to get short sharp pains in my ears in the vicinity of the wind facility. This has not subsided despite the use of prescribed antibiotics from my doctor, who diagnosed the problem as Glue Ear. The infection has cleared up, but the pain still remains. The effect for me is like living inside an aircraft cabin, and would appear to be both noise and air pressure related. This would seem to suggest that something is happening in the atmosphere around the turbines, aswell as infrasound and low frequency noise. I hold a great interest in aviation, and would like to obtain a private pilots licence. As such, I am aware of the existence of wake turbulence, inflow turbulence and wind sheer. It would appear to me that when one is living approximately 600m from a wind turbine with a spinning 40 tonne hub and blade assembly, this is simply too close for human cohabitation!

When I approach the wind facility after a trip away in the car, there can be a very noticable sharp burst of pain in and behind my ears. In addition to this, I get frequent headaches and at times must leave the area altogether. In my opinion, more medical research needs to be done in this field. What are the long term health effects for those of us living with this day in, day out? I am a musician and my hearing is extremely important to me. It is very difficult to work from home and monitor my work when my ears are in such pain. Again, when I leave the property, after a few days the problem recedes.

A personal opinion:

These facilities are not farms. The word " farm" is used in an effort to deceive land holders and to infiltrate the rural community. These are massive industrial installations with an underground labyrinth of cables and wires interconnecting industrial scale turbines to an electrical substation. These are power stations, and as such are accompanied by all the associated noise and electrical health hazards such as electromagnetic radiation and fire! Industrial lubricants are used to cushion against the wear and tear of metal on metal component friction. These liquids can be carried through the air to nearby homes, and into the rain water tanks.

If one is to fully appreciate what these facilities are, my suggestion is to stand beneath the 110m high wind turbine adjacent to the Blow Holes road, at Cape Bridgewater. On a calm day, one can hear an audible hum running throughout the site. Only then do you truly appreciate that you are no longer standing in an unspoilt rural environment, but are in actual fact standing in the middle of a massive power station! What adds insult to injury is the fact that these industrial developments cannot provide the base load power required by heavy industry such as aluminium production.

When considering the future planning guide lines for wind installations, there are many brown field sites, old quarries or disused open cut coal mines that could be used to host wind turbines. We should not be building in areas of such astonishing beauty as Cape Bridgewater. These areas should be kept free from any development and declared " areas of outstanding beauty". These locations are the wrinkles and character lines of this great country. They help to define " us " as a nation!

We are turning public open spaces into industrial no go zones by fencing them off and filling them with massive industrial turbines, rather than protecting them for the enjoyment of future generations, and the protection of wildlife and plant vegetation. Wind turbines do NOT belong in our most precious and beautiful locations such as Cape Bridgewater. To do this makes as much sense as placing wind turbines on the 12 Apostles! That is to say, NO SENSE AT ALL!

The concrete foundations that are left behind are there forever! Tonnes and tonnes of fibreglass will eventually need to be disposed of when the wind turbines are decomissioned. Fibreglass is considered by some to be carcinogenic! In addition to this we read of pollution in China created from the production of the rare earths used in the manufacture of the internal components of the turbines.

We must take more care to protect these areas for future generations and to protect wildlife such as rare and protected birds and bats. I for one would welcome the removal of the Cape Bridgewater wind turbines, and the restoration of the Cape as a no go zone for developers, rather than a no go zone for families and wildlife. This project should be regarded as a major mistake in the history of planning legislation in this country! The government of the day should take the lessons learned from this planning fiasco, and put them to good use when planning for our future energy requirements, or indeed any other future developments. The vast majority of the community in Cape Bridgewater now live within a 2 klm boundary of the wind facility. In light of the recent 2 klm setback for new wind developments in Victoria, where does this leave the residents of Cape Bridgewater now? By its very definition, a 2 klm setback implies there is a noise and health issue!

Another aspect of wind turbine location is the construction of these facilities on areas of land that could be needed for future crop growth. Yes we can use them to run livestock. But, if we take the MacArthur wind facility in Southwest Victoria as an example, it would be hard to imagine ever being able to use this land for crop growing in the future. The modern crop rotation methods used for harvesting do not allow for the concrete pans and conduit foundations left behind after the removal of life expired wind turbines. That is if the developer or host even pay to remove them! These areas of land are precious and are our future food source. As an evergrowing population in Australia, we will need these picturesque locations to expand and live. Future planning guide lines MUST take this into account.

These are noisy industrial power facilities and should be treated as such.

Crispin Trist