

31st October, 2012.

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2012.

I support the proposed amendments to this Bill because I will be only 6km away from a proposed wind development if it gets built. I don't want to be getting sick in my own home, or unable to sleep, like the people from Waubra who came to our community to tell us about their situation.

I have two boys on the Autism Spectrum, both with a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome. One is also diagnosed with ADD, the other with ADHD and also suffers severe migraines. They both have auditory sensitivity. Noise affects their behaviour, state of mind and general well being. The noise created from wind turbines would cause continuous auditory sensory overload.

I have been in contact with another family from Holland who have a child with Autism.

Both he and his mother suffer constantly from the effects of Low Frequency Noise. She describes since "*6 novembre 2011...I became vulnerable (vulnerable) for low frequency noise...Since then my house is hell on earth. I constantly hear the sound of a kind of machine in my house. It is a pumping, rhythmic (rhythmic) and low heavy sound...It is nearly almost there: in my living- room, my toilet, my bathroom and the worst of all: my bedroom a feeling of pressure in the air and it makes my body tremble. The area around my heart is trembling when I am in my house. It is very scaring and sometimes I think I just die if it doesn't stop. At such terrible moments I have to go outside my house, even when it is late at night. Outside the house my body picks up the vibration and I can hear the sound in the air although it is not so damaging as it is in the house.....My (autistic) son told me he can hear the noise since he was born. His father and I, we never understood his complaints about his heart trembling and the noise in his head. We never understood why he shook his head....why he couldn't sleep and why he was so tired.* She goes on to say that the reason she doesn't "*go and live elsewhere,*" is because Holland "*is a small and crowded country with lots of wind turbines, gas fields and pipes and lots of other industrial plants*". Now that she is sensitive to "*Low Frequency Noise,*" she can "*hear it almost everywhere in Holland.*"
- Almere, The Netherlands
(used with permission)

I have grave concerns for the welfare of my family, in particular my two sons and the wider community's health if this proposal is granted at VCAT.

I have witnessed first hand the effects that wind farms have had on other people. They cannot sleep at night and their blood pressure rises. This sleep disturbance obviously leads to other adverse health effects as the gentlemen from Waubra described.

I am concerned about the adverse health effects which are created from excessive noise. I am extremely concerned about the lack of monitoring and regulating of infrasound.

I am concerned that the wind industry acts through ambiguity and deception. When a representative from a wind farm visited our home, I asked her about infrasound and other health issues as reported to Dr Sarah Laurie from the Waubra Foundation. I was told that Dr Laurie was "not a doctor" and that she was "asked not to re-register as a medical doctor."

After talking to other members of our community who had met with this representative, they reported similar conversations, where the credibility of Dr Laurie was questioned.

I feel angry that the companies and the elected politicians do not seem to be taking seriously, the many negative health issues arising from communities, in Australia and overseas.

Government has a legal responsibility under health legislation to prevent harm to its citizens.

People have a right to live and work in their homes without being subjected to nuisance noise created by industry or other citizens.

Green energy cannot be allowed to negatively impact the health of residents, nor should the financial gain of a few, take precedence over the health and well being of many.

I support the Bill stating that all information should be made available via the internet.