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Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment  
(Excessive noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012

I have an interest in this matter and I support the provisions of this bill.

I live on the Atherton Tablelands, in the Cairns hinterland, North Queensland. There is a proposal before our local council to build a Wind Farm at Mt Emerald. This farm will consist of 76 turbines along an 8km ridge of the Great Dividing Range. These turbines are 130m high. According to media reports and newsletters from the developer, the project is to cost \$500 million and the developers will receive \$500 million in Government-mandated subsidies over the life of the project.

2500 people live within 5 km of the proposed site and nearly all the homes are zoned rural residential. The site is in full view of hundreds of residences. The 24/7 noise level, the vibration, blade glint, shadow and the lights on each blade will be severely intrusive. The turbines produce a particularly low frequency noise and unlike ordinary wind, turbines create a pulsing low-frequency pattern. From my reading and research it appears that sleep disturbance, nausea, irregular heartbeat and headaches have been reported by people living in close proximity to wind turbines. I will see and hear 46 turbines from my house, currently under construction. Excessive noise is a major concern for me.

It is a concern that there appears to be a lack of regulation to the proximity of wind farms to residential areas. We will have issues, because the level of background noise we have now is very low. This wind farm developer has a much smaller farm at Windy Hill and has noise issues before council at present.

I fully support the provisions of this bill.

Annette Allwood