

RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) AMENDMENT (EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM WIND FARMS) BILL 2012

Statement of Support

(Senators Madigan and Xenophon)

STATEMENT: I submit the following information to the Senate in support of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.

WIND TURBINES ARE CREATING NOISE ISSUES WORLDWIDE

In Australia poorly sited and intentionally deceptive development applications have been responsible for wind farm excessive noise issues. State laws have been altered to accommodate the known excessive noise problems ⁽¹⁾. Incorrect noise modeling and the complete absence of noise monitoring by both State and Federal Government is negligent. Standard noise guidelines suggest that background noise plus 5 dB (A) are the normal requirements to adhere to. Therefore background plus 10 dB(A) is EXCESSIVE to the EXTREME. Adding 10 dB(A) **doubles** the human perception of the noise heard.

The Federal Government legislation ⁽²⁾ is currently issuing Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) to *non-compliant wind farms* ⁽³⁾.

The actions of the Federal Government in issuing REC's to Companies which are knowingly creating excessive noise and breaking state planning laws, need to be scrutinized. Families have and still are abandoning their homes as "excessive noise" from wind turbines continues.

The "Excessive Noise from Wind Farms" amendments is the logical and necessary action following from the Senate Committee Report – Community Affairs References Committee, The social and economic impact of rural wind farms, June 2011⁽⁴⁾.

The bi-partisan 7 recommendations from "The social and economic impact of rural wind farms" (June 2011) are yet to be adopted by any territorial, state or federal Government.

The "Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012" addresses through proposed amendments to the "Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000" many of the Federal Senate's 7 recommendations brought down as a result of this Senate enquiry.

The Federal Government must not financially support any renewable energy company that creates excessive noise and is therefore in breach of the relevant industrial wind turbine (IWT) guidelines. These breaches may be so adverse that homes are being compulsorily acquired then bulldozed because they have become unlivable ⁽⁵⁾.

Also the intent of Gag orders incorporated into IWT contracts is to remove the democratic right for complaint and are a commonly entrenched part of these hideous arrangements⁽⁶⁾.

The Federal Government has lost control of the Renewable Energy Act; collateral damage from excessive noise must stop. Issuing REC's to non compliant turbine operators has allowed turbine companies to accumulate large financial resources (compulsorily from the hapless electrical consumer) to deceive, fight, gag and purchase affected landowners (6).

The continued sponsoring of these activities by the Federal Government has been politically described as "Government sponsored fraud". I cannot refute this statement.

The "Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012" will in part rectify this fraud and inject some morality into the "Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000".

Sam McGuiness

REFERENCES

1. NSW – adoption of SA Noise Guidelines (SA EPA, Sonus)
NSW – exclusion of Wind Turbines from the Industrial Noise Policy
2. Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000
3. Waubra Wind Farm – Victoria . Currently 8 properties purchased to cover non-compliance.
4. Senate Committee Report – Community Affairs References Committee – The social and economic impact of rural wind farms June 2011.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/index.htm
5. Les Osbourne – Toora, Victoria
<https://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/2010/australia-2/>
6. Slater and Gordon – James Higgins, General Manager of Slater and Gordon, Melbourne Victoria. Letter to The Australian Newspaper on 4th May 2012.