



HOLY TRANSFIGURATION
MONASTERY

To: The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
The Senate
Re: Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2012
ec.sen@aph.gov.au
SEN.Madigan@aph.gov.au
Date 30/10/12

Dear Senators,

We support the proposed amendments to the Renewable Energy Act that is looking into the excessive noise from wind turbines.

Our monastery is 5.86 kms away from the 2nd largest proposed wind farm development in far southern NSW between Cooma and Bombala. With dismay and surprise, we have only just discovered that Boco Rock Wind Farm is about to begin construction early 2013. Despite it already having been approved and despite us also having requested information at initial planning stages several years ago when it first came to light, not one single authority from the project contacted or visited us to discuss this development in person. We have no wish to upset our neighbors who are hosting these wind turbines, but equally, with the number of pilgrims we host, the hospitality we freely give and assist all in need, the semi reclusive, contemplative and religious practices we hold very dear in this pristine environment, we feel that this wind turbine farm will seriously and adversely impact our community's well being and the 2,000 visitors per annum who visit our monastery.

I would like to mention the Tharpaland International Retreat Centre (report attached) for Buddhist monastics in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, where studies and assessments were made pointing to the adverse affects such wind turbines would have on the life of the monks if such a development went ahead. Their way of life and semi reclusive nature from society is parallel to our own situation from which we have drawn extensively upon to help understand the severe implications of these proposed wind farms on our door step.

It has come to our knowledge also from recent advances in scientific enquiry within Australia (acoustician Steven Cooper) and overseas (Physiologist Professor Alec Salt) that infrasound and low frequency noise are affecting wind turbine adjacent land holders out to much greater distances (measured at 8km by Steven Cooper at Waterloo in South Australia - see <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/are-wind-farms-too-close-to-communities/>) and that the inner ear stimulation from infrasound and low frequency noise results in activating the alerting response (ie the sympathetic nervous system), raises many serious health and well-being concerns than first thought. Much of Professor Salt's work is peer reviewed and published, and is available from his website at <http://oto.wustl.edu/cochlea/wind.html>)

The larger the turbines, the greater the low frequency noise problem (<http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/low-frequency-noise-from-large-wind-turbines-2/>)

It is also clear that there is outdated knowledge about low frequency noise, sleep deprivation and chronic stress which was not included in the Australian government's

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National Health and Medical Research Council's Rapid Review of 2010 which stated that there was no peer reviewed published evidence of direct harm to human health. (see <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/review-of-published-research-on-low-frequency-noise-and-its-effects/>)

The proposed amendments will go some way to ensuring better accountability for wind turbine operators. However the regulations need to ensure that there is a procedure for measuring infrasound and low frequency noise inside the homes and domestic dwellings in the case of complaints, and that these are rapidly acted upon.

I also urge the Senate to do everything possible to ensure that the urgently required research that was recommended by the last Senate Inquiry is carried out as quickly as possible.

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Sincerely yours,

Fr Sergei Shatrov

Abbott of Holy Transfiguration Monastery