

SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Renewable Energy Amendment

(Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012

We support the Excessive Noise from Wind Farms Bill 2012.

We are extremely concerned that excessive noise from the neighbouring wind farm will have serious negative impacts on our health and render our home uninhabitable.

We are extremely concerned for our future health and the likely untenability of our home, due to the noise effects of wind turbines.

We live on a beautiful 100 acre lifestyle property that will be surrounded by turbines in a 270 degree arc by the adjacent Berrybank wind farm (Permit granted Aug 2010). There will be 16 turbines within 2 kilometres of our home and 37 within 3 kilometres. The closest being 780 metres from our home. Lines of turbines, ahead of the prevailing winds, will increase any effects and create Special Audible Characteristics.

Due to the initial failure of [REDACTED] ([REDACTED], acoustician of proponent, [REDACTED]) noise loggers and the subsequent elevated noise levels offered by them, we employed an acoustician to measure background noise – these levels were lower than [REDACTED]. After scrutiny of [REDACTED] noise prediction map for the Berrybank wind farm, the acoustician considered that our home will be untenable once the turbines are operating.

Although the Permit was granted with all the modelling done using a lower noise emitting turbine, the Vestas V90, the proponents are now proposing to increase the turbine size and alter the layout of the wind farm. The proponents and the Victorian Planning Department say that they do not have to inform us of any changes. We are most anxious about the impacts of larger turbines, particularly because the infrasound/low frequency noise and audible noise increases with larger turbines.

In anticipation of our future situation we have visited wind farms in Victoria and have experienced pressure-type headaches. We have heard from many people who have experienced negative health impacts and some who have vacated their homes. Most of them welcomed the turbines to their locale and are genuine, honest people whose lives have been severely compromised by noise from wind turbines.

We are normally happy, positive people who looked to our future with relish and optimism, but we now feel that our future has virtually been stolen from us by the prospect of noise impacts from the Berrybank wind farm. We feel powerless in our situation and often feel very stressed, upset and alienated.

Yours Sincerely

Anne and Allan Schafer