

From:
To: [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012
Date:

Re: Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012

I support these proposed amendments to the Renewable Energy Act, because I will be close to a proposed wind development and if it is built I do not want to get sick, unable to sleep or forced to abandon my home like the people Waubra who have told me about their situation.

I am extremely concerned about the lack of monitoring and regulating of infrasound.

I am concerned the wind industry acts through ambiguity and deception. I support the bill stating that all information should be available via the internet and the wind industry should have to conduct transparent independent research into the effect of noise from wind turbines into health.

Background

We are located in the Trawool Valley in central Victoria.

Plans for Wind Turbines have been presented for wind turbines to be constructed within the Heritage Listed Trawool Valley.

These plans were presented to Mitchell Shire Council and were considered by council at a specially convened Council meeting on Thursday October 25, 2012 - Council rejected the planning application unanimously (9 votes to nil).

The company concerned had made application to VCAT before council had had any opportunity to consider the planning permit.

1) The behavior of this company has resulted in a total lack of trust of information provided by this company

My Concerns

- The company commenced planning work on this project at least 2 years ago, no information was provided to the public or residents affected by the project until July/August 2012 giving concerned residents a very short time to peruse very detailed and confusing documents and form an opinion on the project.
- The company made application to VCAT on October 8, 2012 before Mitchell Shire Council had had the opportunity to consider the matter at a public meeting.

- It appears that the timing of the proposal from the company was made around Council elections in Victoria. The release of the planning document, the application to VCAT appear to have been timed to exert maximum pressure on the Mitchell Shire. Fortunately councillors felt strongly enough about the inappropriateness of the project to convene a special Council Meeting to consider the planning document and reject it unanimously.

- The company state that the majority of land use in the surrounding area is agricultural, this is totally false and misleading - the bulk of the properties in close proximity to the project are small lifestyle properties of between 7 and 60 acres. Most residents consider their properties "superannuation" investments and a wind turbine project of this magnitude will result in devaluation of our superannuation.

- The planning proposal submitted to council is now no longer valid as one property has refused to allow wind turbines on their property; no change has been made to the planning proposal and The company has not advised council or residents of the change and what effect it will have on our properties.

-The company state in their original proposal that properties affected visually by these 159 metre high turbines will be able to get assistance with screening plants to hide the turbines
- at no time did the company inspect our property before making this offer; the offer is impractical as we would need trees at least 60 metres tall.

- the original proposal from the company does not include many properties within close proximity to the proposed turbines - to my knowledge no adjustment has been made to their original document

- the planning document quotes the *"New Zealand Standard NZS 6808:2010 - Wind Farm Noise"* as the standard for this proposal at the same time the company is quoted in the "Yea Chronicle" on October 24 " *the final wind turbine design had not yet been selected*" and *"extensive noise assessments were undertaken and is compliance with guidelines in Victoria"*

Which is correct?

- the same article quotes the company as stating the final wind turbine design had not been selected - how can meaningful noise assessments be made without taking the design of the turbines into consideration?

The company concerned with this proposal has been difficult to deal with throughout the whole planning process, my belief is that their plan is to bully council and residents into accepting the proposal by making it difficult for council to reach a decision before elections and to threaten both council and residents with an action at VCAT (VCAT is something most residents have no knowledge or experience with)

2) Noise and the effect on Health

While the proposed wind turbines to be located in the Trawool Valley have not received permission I am concerned about the effect these 159 metre, 3.5 MW wind factories will have on health of residents in this area, particularly after speaking to and reading reports on the effect of noise on people having to live in close proximity to wind turbines both in Australia and overseas.

The Trawool Valley is unique in that it is a granite lined, steep sided, narrow valley and forms a natural amphitheatre, the companies proposal does not take the topography into consideration and cites the *"New Zealand Standard NZS 6808:2010 - Wind Farm Noise"* as the standard for this proposal; this standard is outmoded and is in no way relevant to the proposal for the Trawool Valley.

I urge Senators to compel wind turbine companies to conduct transparent research into the effect of noise on health and for the need for transparency about the noise and wind mast data, and for serious consequences for breaches of noise guidelines (non payment of

RECS) if they break the rules.