

From:  
To: [Committee\\_EC \(SEN\)](#)  
Subject: Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012  
Date: Friday, 2 November 2012 7:22:40 PM

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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 that alternative renewable energy is not being considered to replace inefficient wind turbines (research show wind turbines run at about 33% efficiency across Australia.)

### Background

We are located in the Trawool Valley in central Victoria.

Plans for 16 x 159 metre, 3.5 mw Wind Turbines have been presented for wind turbines to be constructed within the Heritage Listed Trawool Valley.

I believe subsidies paid to companies erecting wind turbines are around \$1,000,000 per turbine per year i.e \$16, 000,000 per year , \$320,000,000 over the expected 20 year life of the turbines to be erected in the Trawool Valley.

### Alternative

Subsidise home owners in this area to install Solar Panels - subsidise 75% of cost of panels would enable 2,700 homes to install solar panels (based on a cost of \$8,000 per home) for the cost of subsidies paid to the company hoping to install these 16 turbines.

### Advantages

- Solar power has no known health and noise issues
- Issues with visual pollution would disappear
- Solar Panels do not affect land values
- Consumers power bills will actually decrease as against with wind turbines where taxpayers pay for the subsidy through tax and then pay an increased price for power supplied by the same turbines = happy consumers and voters
- Solar panels will probably need to be replaced over a 20 year period, but advantages for consumers and the environment will continue with solar panels as against wind turbines where the cost of removing the turbines and the attached infrastructure is unknown

### Disadvantages

- Our elected officials will have to think outside the square and present alternative proposals to the electorate.
- Lobby groups from the coal and wind industry will fight fiercely against this type of change (similar to the gambling industry)

I urge Senators to consider other ideas and find alternatives to wind turbines that are increasingly proving detrimental to health and well being wherever they are located.

**David Charles**