

WESTWIND ENERGY PTY LTD
ABN 94 109 132 201



Gisborne Head Office

Address: Office 5, Level 1
Nexus Centre, 12-14 Prince Street
Gisborne VIC 3437

Telephone: 03 5421 9999

Facsimile: 03 5428 3100

14 September 2012

Submissions

Climate Change Authority

GPO Box 1944

Melbourne VIC 3001

By – email

Dear Sir / Madam

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd – Submission to the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review

WestWind welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of the RET to the Climate Change Authority. In short **we submit that the existing RET target of 41,000 GWh by 2020 remain unchanged.**

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd (WestWind) is an Australian company dedicated to the development, construction and operation of wind farms. Since 2004, WestWind has had 235 wind turbines approved in the Ballarat region of Victoria (equivalent to approximately 641 megawatts of installed capacity).

One of the major issues facing the renewable energy industry in Australia is the constantly changing regulatory environment which is resulting in investment risk - be it real or just perceived. Leaving the RET unchanged would reduce uncertainty for all energy investments in Australia, as uncertainty in renewable energy creates uncertainty across all energy investments.

In our experience, the frequency of the RET review (regardless of its potential outcomes) is delaying investment decisions in the sector as the delivery phase for major wind energy projects exceeds two years.

We submit that the RET remain unchanged, and that any future reviews occur no earlier than 2017, at which time the degree of influence from policy settings should be assessed.

As Australia's renewable energy inputs must significantly increase so as to continue de-carbonising and de-risking our economy in a global context, it is important to consider a RET post-2020 in time and set in place legislation that fosters further growth of renewable energy uptake.

WestWind has invested tens of millions of dollars in Australia, and has been a direct and indirect employer to dozens of staff since 2004. Continued uncertainty puts our entire operation at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Tobias Geiger

MANAGING DIRECTOR