



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

MS18-000243

Dr Wendy Craik AM  
Chair  
Climate Change Authority  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**6 MAR 2018**

Dear Dr Craik 

Please find attached an instrument requesting the Climate Change Authority to undertake a special review under section 59 of the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

JOSH FRYDENBERG



## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

### SPECIAL REVIEW BY THE CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY

By this written instrument I, Josh Frydenberg, Minister for the Environment and Energy, request that the Climate Change Authority conducts a review under section 59 of the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011* of the role of the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

The review must consider the following questions:

- To what extent is the role of National Wind Farm Commissioner fulfilling the terms of reference (attached), including:
  - working collaboratively with all levels of government, scientists, industry and the community to resolve complaints from communities about proposed and operational wind farms;
  - referring complaints about wind farms to relevant state authorities and help ensure that they are properly addressed;
  - leading efforts to promote best practices, information availability, and provide a central, trusted source for dissemination of information?
- Should the role of the National Wind Farm Commissioner continue beyond the initial period of three years?
- Should the scope of the National Wind Farm Commissioner's role be expanded to other large scale renewable energy projects, such as solar and storage?
- What options are available to fund any ongoing role for the Wind Farm Commissioner?

The Review must include stakeholder consultation.

#### *Timing*

The Authority is to produce a final report by 31 May 2018.

Dated

6/3/

2018

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## **National Wind Farm Commissioner**

### **Terms of Reference**

The negotiated settlement of the Renewable Energy Target in mid-2015 is expected to lead to increased construction of wind turbines in the next five years.

The Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines, held during 2015, identified many issues of concern relating to the standards, monitoring and operation of wind farms.

The Government responded positively to the recommendations of the Committee's Interim Report, including creation of the role of a National Wind Farm Commissioner.

The Commissioner will work collaboratively with all levels of government, scientists, industry and the community to resolve complaints from communities about proposed and operational wind farms.

The Commissioner will refer complaints about wind farms to relevant state authorities and help ensure that they are properly addressed.

The Commissioner will work with stakeholders to identify needs and priorities for monitoring wind farms.

The Commissioner will lead efforts to promote best practices, information availability, and provide a central, trusted source for dissemination of information.

The Commissioner, supported by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, will report to the Minister for the Environment and provide an Annual Report to the Australian Parliament on delivering against these Terms of Reference.

The work of the Commissioner will not duplicate or override the important statutory responsibilities of other jurisdictions, such as those relating to the planning and approval of wind farms.

The Commissioner is to draw on the work of the Independent Scientific Committee on Wind Turbines.

The role of the National Wind Farm Commissioner will be established for an initial period of three years and will be reviewed by the Australian Government.