

Overview

Submissions on the National Wind Farm Commissioner review are invited, ideally using this template to assist with the Authority's analysis of submissions. However, organisations and individuals wishing to make submissions should not feel constrained by the questions below and should feel free to provide any comments they wish. The Authority is also happy to accept submissions in other forms, including letters or emails.

Contact Details

Name of Organisation

Southern Grampians Landscape Guardians.

Name of Contact, Role:

Keith Staff ; President

Contact Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Contact Email:

[REDACTED]

Date: 9/04/18

Confidentiality

All submissions except those made in confidence will be published on the Authority's website.

For submissions made by individuals, all personal details other than your name and the state or territory in which you reside will be removed from your submission before it is published.

Do you want this submission to be treated as confidential?

No

1. Have you interacted with the National Wind Farm Commissioner on a complaint about a proposed or operating wind farm? If so, please tell us about the nature of the complaint.

In particular:

- I. Did the complaint relate to an existing or proposed wind farm, or was it a general complaint?**
- II. What was your role in the process - were you the complainant or was the complaint made against you or your company?**
- III. If the complaint was about a specific wind farm, in what state and local government region is it located?**

1. Complaint about a proposed wind energy facility [WEF]

11. I was a complainant.

111. Compliant against a proposal by RES for a WEF to be located next to Penshurst, Victoria, 223 turbines , locations split 50/ 50 % between Moyne shire and the Southern Grampians Shire.

2. If you have interacted with the National Wind Farm Commissioner on a complaint about a proposed or operating wind farm, would you like to comment on how the complaint process was conducted?

In particular:

- I. Were you provided with information about the process for dealing with your complaint?
- II. Were you made aware that participation in the process to deal with your complaint by other parties (like state government agencies or wind farm operators) is voluntary?
- III. Were you asked to provide information to assist the Commissioner in dealing with your complaint? Did you do so?
- IV. Was your complaint progressed in a timely way?
- V. Did the Commissioner work with wind farm proponents or operators and other bodies (like state or local government agencies) on the complaint?
- VI. Were you satisfied with the process undertaken to resolve the complaint?
- VII. Were you satisfied with the outcome of the complaint?

1. Yes.

11. Yes.

111. Yes.

1V. Yes.

V. I believe so. This is one area needing more detailed and Witten communications from the wfc as a result of his contacts with the proponents,- dates , name of person spoken to and exactly what was said,-- what was agreed to / any action by the proponent.

V 1. Partly satisfied.

V 11. Am not sure about the contribution made by the wfc commissioner. re the withdrawal by the proponents after over 8 years of strong , vocal

opposition to the proposal by locals [proponents cited 'technical' reasons for their withdrawal]

3. The Terms of Reference for the National Wind Farm Commissioner say that the Commissioner will lead efforts to promote best practice, information availability and provide a central, trusted source for disseminating information. Do you have any comments on this aspect of the Commissioner's role?

I believe that many people who had legitimate complaints did not in the end make those complaints because it was made too difficult [process] to make any complaints with the perception that the wfc is 'too close' to

the wind industry.

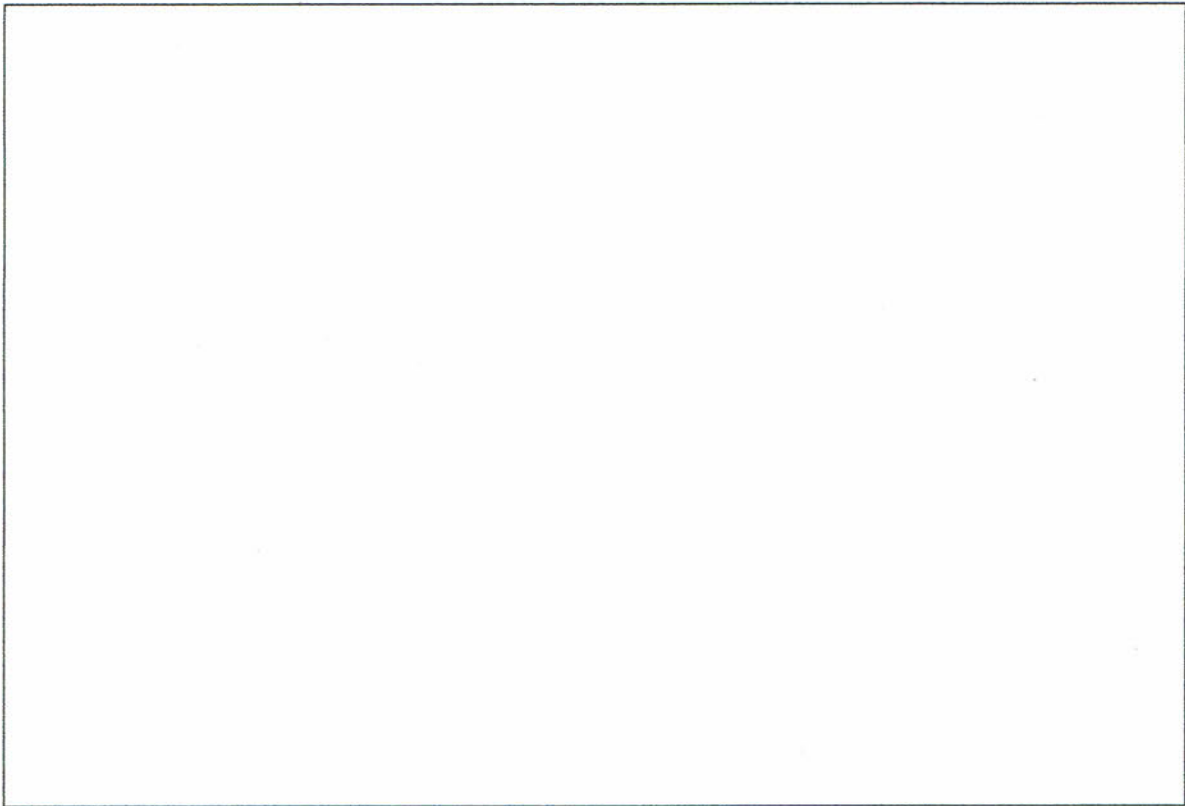
4. Do you think there is an ongoing need for the Commissioner? Do you see this changing in the future? If so, how?

Yes.

The terms of reference to be revised to make the whole process more open/ transparent with the wfc and therefore proponents being held accountable in recognising problems/ complaints and something being actioned to rectify the complaints.

[At the moment it is simply a case of denial/ ignoring many problems, - Issues, with the possibility of even more WEFs being constructed, problems and compliant are likely to multiply.]

A new commissioner should be appointed for another 3 years and then another review.



5. Do you think the Commissioner's scope, which is currently focused on proposed and operational wind farms is sufficient? Or should it be expanded to other large scale renewable energy projects, such as solar and storage?

There are specific issues related to WEF,s [i.e. noise / health , visual impacts etc.;]

I do not believe that these identified problems should be expanded to include solar and storage.

6. The Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner is funded from the Commonwealth budget at a cost of approximately \$676,000 per year. Do you think the Commissioner's office should continue to be funded in this way or should other funding models (like cost recovery from industry) be considered?

I believe that funding should be mandated/ paid by the wind industry.

7. Do you have any other comments about the role of National Wind Farm Commissioner?

There is very much a 'conspiracy of silence' from the ABC, Fairfax and other left leaning groups re; the many problems surrounding the wind industry. [they are in denial and want to close- down any anti- wef comments]

Vested interests also deliberately ignore any problems.

Maybe a strong more visible P.R element should be included as part of the role of any new wef.

* PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHMENT -
"THE PROBLEMS WITH WIND FARMS ARE REAL"

Postal:
89 Gray St, Hamilton Vic, 3300

Letters to the editor

The problems with wind farms are real

THERE is now simply too much information in the public domain for the wind industry and its many, often ill informed supporters, to continue with any integrity their relentless attacks on the credibility of long suffering wind farm neighbours - people who know with certainty they have been adversely affected by the operation of nearby wind turbines, in many cases having to leave their homes permanently as a result.

Problems exist with wind farms, serious problems, long brushed under the carpet, and they exist in every country in the world where 'Big Wind' has spread its tentacles, imposing industrial installations on rural communities, initially by subterfuge and stealth, and often leading to their permanent fracturing.

AAT decision

THIS newspaper has recently reported on the Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision handed down in Adelaide last year, in which a senior

Federal Court judge decided that the noise annoyance produced by wind farms was a 'plausible pathway to disease.'

The Tribunal importantly considered that the present method of sound measurement was not adequate to detect the level of low frequency sound in a receiver dwelling.

This is high level recognition of what the Waubra Foundation has been saying for eight years.

It should make people think seriously about the spread of wind farms across western Victoria.

Scientists last year, at Germany's renowned Max Planck Institute, working with functional MRI machines, have demonstrated that sub-audible infrasound can be detected by areas of the brain associated with stress or threat responses - the primitive, instinctive brain - also known as the fight or flight, or startle reflex.

And that, stimulation over longer periods of time could exert a profound effect on autonomic functions and may eventually lead to the formation of symptoms such as sleep disturbances, panic attacks or depression.

The reports from those living with wind turbine noise emissions mirror precisely what is recorded in the study, the data from which perfectly corroborates their experiences of being woken from deep sleep with their hearts racing, horrible dreams, waking as if startled, notwithstanding that the noise from operating turbines may not necessarily be heard.

A highly qualified group of Swedish researchers are finding similar results and concluding that low frequency amplitude modulation is an important constituent of the annoying quality of wind turbine noise, considered to be far more disturbing than other noise sources at similar sound levels.

Amplitude modulation

AMPLITUDE modulation is the pulsing feature

of wind turbine noise brought about by the moving blades passing the stationary tower and it is increasingly being identified as what makes turbine noise so problematic to many people.

Waking in fright in the middle of a deep sleep is an involuntary response.

It is not something these people are imagining as a result of having a negative attitude to wind farms, being gullible or envious of their neighbours; the explanation for wind farm complaints provided by prominent Big Wind supporter, Simon Chapman, who has openly mocked the concerns of distressed residents.

In a paper delivered in December 2017, to the American Acoustical Association in New Orleans, sound expert, Steven Cooper outlined how he had been able to reproduce the exact same symptoms experienced by wind farm noise sensitised individuals in their homes, in his Sydney acoustic laboratory, by exposing them to inaudible pulsing, low and mid frequency, sounds recorded in a bedroom at Cape Bridgewater, close to the eponymous wind farm.

A just concluded six-month investigation by Gatehouse Media, a company owning 130 daily, mostly rural, newspapers across the USA found that 'wind developers representing some of the world's biggest energy companies divide communities and disrupt the lives of residents reporters interviewed more than 70 families living near three dozen current or proposed wind farms and identified through public documents and media reports an additional 400 families living near industrial wind turbines that have publicly complained about shadow flicker, noise and health problems.'

Push back against wind farms

A PUSH back is taking place right around the world against the government sanctioned rolling

out of seemingly unrestricted wind farms, with hugely increased in size turbines.

And it is not just a phenomenon in English speaking countries, another ill informed suggestion made by Simon Chapman.

More than half of European executives say resistance to onshore wind turbines in their country is too strong to allow for significant growth, according to a report by business services group Lloyd's Register, as reported this month.

And that resistance is in part driven by health concerns.

I will conclude with two lines from no less an authority than the British Medical Journal that published a scholarly article in 2012 warning about the concerns addressed above.

A large body of evidence now exists to suggest that wind turbines disturb sleep and impair health at distances and external noise levels that are permitted in most jurisdictions.

The problems with wind farms are real.

Toney Edney
DIRECTOR OF THE WAUBRA FOUNDATION