



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment
and Communications
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A Suzlon Group Company

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

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To whom it may concern,

**REpower Australia Response to the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment
(Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012**

REpower Australia is a leading developer and turnkey constructor, operator and maintenance service provider of grid-connected wind farms in Australia. We directly employ around 170 people, and with over 1,000 megawatts of wind energy projects in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, either operating or under construction, we represent approximately a third of the market for wind turbines in Australia.

Our parent company, Suzlon Energy Limited, is the 5th largest wind energy supplier globally with operations in 32 countries.

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications on the proposed Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.

Key points:

- We do not support the adoption of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.
- In our experience of delivering wind farms, we have seen the benefits that wind energy can bring to local communities, including regional investment and employment opportunities. Additional restrictions on wind farms put these benefits at risk, and makes achievement of the 20% renewable energy target more difficult.
- State Governments are responsible for establishing the planning framework for new infrastructure, such as wind farms, and already have clear standards relating to wind farm noise. Adding an additional layer of compliance at the federal level is not necessary, and will add complexity and costs to wind farm projects.
- Wind farms in Australia currently have to comply with some of the most stringent standards in the world for noise. The amenity of local residents is protected by these standards, which include modelling before the wind farm is built, and compliance monitoring once the wind farm is operating.

- The setting of arbitrary, additional noise limits may not address community concerns about wind energy. This is why effective community engagement is so important, and is a high priority of our organisation for the projects we are involved in.
- There is no reason why there should be a different approach to wind farm noise compared to other forms of infrastructure.

If you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Megan Wheatley
Strategic Policy Advisor
REpower Australia Pty Ltd