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October 17, 2024

Senator Karen Grogan
Chair of the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submitted via: Senate Committee website

Re: Submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Reconsideration of Decisions) Bill 2024

Dear Senator:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the above Senate Inquiry.

Tilt Renewables is committed to continue playing a lead role in accelerating Australia's transition to clean energy. Tilt Renewables is one of the largest owners and operators of wind and solar generation in Australia with 1700 MW of renewable generation capacity across ten operating wind and solar farms as well as storage. In addition, Tilt Renewables has a development pipeline of over 5000 MW of wind, solar and storage projects.

Tilt Renewables supports this bill as a reasonable compromise between planning certainty and the ability to consider authentic and significant new evidence that may come to light after a decision is made.

It is worth noting that most planning approvals are not open to reconsideration of new arguments or evidence. This is true of most, if not all, State Government planning processes. The rationale for this is clear as investors need certainty that a planning approval (after any appeal period has expired) is final and will not be overturned as they continue to invest in developing, and then constructing, the project.

The amendment seeks to limit the current open-ended timeframe to three years when applications from the public can be made to consider substantial new information or change in circumstances which could then lead to the previous approval being revoked. However, even after three years, a State or Territory Environment Minster could still apply for reconsideration.





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Conclusion

Tilt Renewables consider this the Bill would be a worthwhile reform and improvement to the current open-ended EPBC appeal process. The Bill strikes a reasonable balance; however, Tilt Renewables considers that the Bill would benefit from being amended to limiting the window for applications from the general public for reconsideration to two years.

If the Committee would like Tilt Renewables to appear at the Hearing to clarify the issues raised in this submission, or has any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely,

Jonathan Upson Head of Policy & Regulatory Affairs Tilt Renewables

