



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

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Our ref: MC12/3957  
IH301012

- 8 NOV 2012

Mr Ian Holland  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Holland

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2012 to the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland, about the terms of amendment to the Inquiry into Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012 (the Bill).

As advised by the Premier on 29 October 2012, your correspondence was provided to me, as the responsible Minister, for consideration.

On behalf of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, I can advise that the Queensland Government does not support the following proposed amendments within the Bill:

- Schedule 1,
  - Section 1: defining the term “creates excessive noise”
  - Section 3: eligibility for accreditation in relation to creation of excessive noise
  - Section 4: setting out the circumstances for excessive noise in relation to residences and other places where people habitually congregate.

The Queensland Government does not support the progression of these amendments within the Bill because the amendments add an unnecessary level of assessment to the development of wind farms for renewable energy.

Queensland has existing requirements that address environmental impacts, including noise impacts, through the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The environmental impact assessment processes are rigorous, and address the:

- existing environment
- project's environmental impacts
- ways of avoiding, mitigating or offsetting these impacts.

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These proposed amendments in the Bill would add another layer of assessment for development proponents of 'wind farms'.

The following amendments in the Bill are also not supported:

- Schedule 1:
  - Section 6 and 7: removing the discretion of the Regulator in relation to the suspension of accreditation of an accredited power station, if the regulator believes the power station operations are in contravention of a law in the Commonwealth, a State or Territory.

These amendments are not supported because it may result in suspensions for trivial matters that are better addressed by means such as a direction to comply or a show cause notice. These amendments also create a circumstance where enforcement of State or Territory laws might be compromised for fear of triggering an unnecessary suspension of accreditation.

Yours sincerely

**JEFF SEENEY MP**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning**