



15 November 2012

Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Senate Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Dr Holland,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 November 2012 advising Origin Energy about W Les Huson's submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bills 2012. We note the concerns raised by Mr Huson and would like to take the opportunity to respond to the comments made by Mr Huson regarding Stockyard Hill Wind Farm.

First, when Mr Huson refers to "VCAT hearings for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm", he is actually referring to the Victorian Ministerial Planning Panel Hearings which considered the application for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm in early 2010. Stockyard Hill Wind Farm was not required to appear before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Second, the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm background sound surveys considered by Mr Huson as "lacking credibility" were consistent with the requirements of the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria 2009*.

In addition, the Ministerial Planning Panel submitted its recommendations to the Minister for Planning in August 2010 and the Minister for Planning approved Stockyard Hill Wind Farm in October 2010. The Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Planning Permit included a condition which provided that "before the development starts, background noise monitoring must be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning".

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm has developed a background noise monitoring plan which was approved by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development in March 2012. The plan is available on Stockyard Hill Wind Farm's website:
<http://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/planning-process> .

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments contained in Mr Huson's submission. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 03 8665 7729.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Craig
Executive General Manager Corporate Affairs
Origin Energy