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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

**RE: Submission in response to the proposed Renewable Energy (Electricity)
Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012**

RATCH-Australia Corporation (RAC), a developer and owner of thermal and renewable power stations around Australia, is pleased to provide this submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications in response to the proposed Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Excessive Noise from Wind Farms) Bill 2012.

RAC is an independent power producer headquartered in Sydney, with an operating portfolio of one coal-fired power plant, three gas-fired power plants and three wind farms. RAC also owns a portfolio of wind farm development sites representing more than 1GW of potential installed capacity.

RAC is a strong supporter of wind energy because of the economic benefits and environmental impacts of this form of electricity generation. RAC does not support the proposed amendment, which it views as:

- Unnecessary: Wind farms in Australia already face among the toughest guidelines in the world in relation to their permissible noise levels;
- Unjustified: The noise monitoring methodology proposed in the amendment is ambiguous, not clearly defined, and not founded on planning or scientific principles;
- Unfair: The amendment singles out wind farm developments for an increased level of scrutiny. Wind farms should be treated the same as other infrastructure; and
- Uneconomic: The proposed amendment may needlessly curtail wind farm development in Australia, increasing the costs and reducing the effectiveness of Australia's emissions reductions strategies. Wind farms are currently the lowest cost form of renewable energy generation and are expected to deliver a significant amount of the generation required for Australia to satisfy its Renewable Energy Target obligations.

RAC would be happy to provide further information to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications in relation to this matter.

Kind regards

Geoff Dutton
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