

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 78  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Programme:** Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)  
**Topic:** Wind Farm Commissioner - Conciliation Arrangements  
**Hansard Page:** 47  
**Question Date:** 08 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Do you get involved in the conciliation personally? Is that part of your role?

**Mr Dyer:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** If the conciliation does not work, then you make a recommendation?

**Mr Dyer:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** What powers do you have?

**Mr Dyer:** I have no powers, but I do have the ability to make recommendations and distribute those to the affected parties.

**Senator URQUHART:** So those recommendations would go to the party that the complaint is about? What is the process?

**Mr Dyer:** If it was a complaint against a wind farm operator, the recommendation would go to the resident and to the wind farm operator.

**Senator URQUHART:** How many have you been involved in at this stage?

**Mr Dyer:** It is an early time in the cycle, but I will be involved in some conciliation meetings coming up towards the end of February and going into March.

**Senator URQUHART:** Is that the first lot?

**Mr Dyer:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** Whereabouts are they?

**Mr Dyer:** Unless the chair has some advice I would prefer not to identify particular wind farms or residents. I can say that the first one I will do is about a wind farm that is in development.

**Senator URQUHART:** Are you able to tell us what state they are in?

**Mr Dyer:** Victoria.

**Senator URQUHART:** Have you met with any of the complainants yourself, personally?

**Mr Dyer:** I have.

**Senator URQUHART:** How many?

**Mr Dyer:** I totalled up 39 people I have met with so far who are concerned residents.

**Senator URQUHART:** Are they from both ends of the spectrum—relating to operating wind farms and plans?

**Mr Dyer:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** What would be the ratio of those complainants? Is it the same—about fifty-fifty—that you have met with?

**Mr Dyer:** To give you an accurate answer I would probably need to take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** Could you take that on notice, please? ....

**Answer:**

Approximately 37 per cent of complaints received as at 8 February 2016 relate to planned wind farms. The remaining complaints relate to operating wind farms.