



Ms Shayleen Thompson
A/g Chief Executive Officer
Climate Change Authority
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2600

19 April 2018

Dear Ms Thompson

Re: Role of the National Wind Farm Commissioner

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2018 regarding the review of the role of the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

The NSW Government is committed to a secure, affordable and clean energy future for NSW households and businesses and is working to implement the Renewable Energy Action Plan (Plan).

The second goal of this plan is to build community support for renewable energy. The Commissioner's role assists NSW in achieving this goal by empowering local communities to be informed participants regarding wind farm proposals in their regions.

As a subject matter expert, the Commissioner has provided independent expert advice regarding the NSW Wind Energy Planning Framework, which was finalised in 2016. The Commissioner is also providing input into the Department's development of a landholder guide for wind and solar farms. The expert advice provided, based on evidence from case studies, will help the government equip landholders with the information they need to achieve optimal outcomes for all stakeholders.

The Commissioner provides an essential complaints handling service for communities in NSW and spends extensive time in regional areas to understand and resolve community complaints. This provides the government with invaluable information regarding community sentiment towards NSW projects.

I express my continued and ongoing support for the work of National Wind Farm Commissioner. Should you have further questions about this matter, please contact Ms Chloe Hicks, Manager, Renewable Energy on 02 8229 2817 or at chloe.hicks@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Amy Kean
Renewable Energy Advocate
Division of Energy, Water and Portfolio Strategy