

From: [Patrick Simons](#)
To: [CCA Submissions](#)
Subject: Friends of the Earth Australia Submission to the Review of the National Wind Farm Commissioner
Date: Friday, 13 April 2018 4:08:36 PM

To the Climate Change Authority,

Please find Friends of the Earth Australia's submission to the review of the National Wind Farm Commissioner below.

Thankyou and all the best,

Pat Simons,

Friends of the Earth Australia's National Renewable Energy Spokesperson

Friends of the Earth Australia's submission to the Review of the NWFC

Friends of the Earth Australia is a national, membership based environmental organisation which has been active for more than four decades.

The National Wind Farm Commissioner (NWFC) has played an essential role as the central contact point for receiving complaints from community members and sharing clear, factual information with the public about wind energy generation.

Although the number of complaints received since the creation of the role are minimal – especially considering the number of wind projects in operation and under development around Australia - the NWFC provides community members with an important space to have their views heard and addressed. As there are range of community engagement practises in place across the sector, it's important that community members who have had a poor experience with private developers are able to have their issues addressed.

Additionally, the NWFC has a role to play in addressing misinformation about renewable energy technology, and ensuring community members have access to factual information based on science.

As strong advocates for renewable energy, we have had a positive experience with Andrew Dyer in his role as NWFC and believe the role should continue.

It would be sensible to expand the scope of the NWFC to other technologies including solar and energy storage technologies as these sectors emerge. It is understandable for community members to have concerns about large energy infrastructure projects – whether these are renewable or fossil-fuel generators - and these should be addressed in a clear and reasonable manner.

Additionally, we recommend the role be expanded to non-renewable generation, such as coal and gas generators. Many community members have serious concerns about the health and environmental impacts of fossil fuel generation, and deserve access to a similar process.

Unlike efforts to address climate change, when it comes to handling complaints about energy generation, the Australian government should take a technology-neutral approach.

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