

12 April 2018

*The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600*

Dear Minister Frydenberg

RE: Review of the National Wind Farm Commissioner

Goldwind is of the view that the National Wind Farm Commissioner has helped to further enhance community trust and public confidence in our sector, working primarily as an independent facilitator with regard to community complaints.

His office has improved understanding and awareness of the wind industry amongst critical stakeholders and made a positive contribution to the continuous improvement of the sector through knowledge sharing and promotion of best practice.

The Commissioner's role as an independent mediator and trusted information source among government and community is a valuable asset to communities hosting wind farms and to the wind industry. The Commissioner regularly engages with the industry's key stakeholders including the Australian and State/Territory governments, Members of Parliament, community groups and media providing an independent perspective on the performance of the wind industry.

His role assists industry to dispel misinformation, resolve issues dispassionately through a trusted mediator, and to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in a constructive manner.

The National Wind Farm Commissioner has made a valuable and practical contribution to Goldwind Australia's community engagement process. The suggestions made for improvements to our community engagement strategy have enhanced the outcomes for projects, Australia wide. This will be built on as we move forward to further develop the effectiveness of our approach.

Goldwind believe that the Terms of Reference for the role of National Wind Farm Commissioner should be maintained, which require the Commissioner to,

'work collaboratively with all levels of government, scientists, industry and the community to resolve complaints' and 'to lead efforts to promote best practices, information availability, and provide a central, trusted source for dissemination of information'.

Many renewable energy firms are increasingly integrated, with portfolios comprising wind, solar and storage – sometimes within the same development – and it would make sense for the Commissioner's scope on complaints handling for example, to cover all forms of large-scale development.

The large-scale solar and battery industries stand to benefit from this same collaborative and constructive 'service' as they seek to enhance and maintain their social licence to operate.

If you have any questions regarding the submission, please contact Helen Kennedy on 0472 832 552 or helenkennedy@goldwindaustralia.com or myself on 0418 145 197.

Yours sincerely,

John Titchen
Managing Director
Goldwind Australia

Goldwind's projects in Australia include:

Operating

- [Morton's Lane](#) 20 MW wind farm VIC
- [Gullen Range](#) 165 MW wind farm NSW
- [Gullen Solar](#) 10 MW solar farm NSW
- [White Rock](#) 175 MW wind farm NSW

Under Construction

- [White Rock Solar](#) 20 MW solar farm NSW

Construction in 2018 / 2019

- [Moorabool](#) 385 MW wind farm VIC
- [Stockyard Hill](#) 530 MW wind farm VIC
- [Cattle Hill](#) 144 MW wind farm TAS
- [Coppabella](#) 150 MW wind farm NSW
- Rabbit Ridge 30 MW wind + solar QLD