

Contact Details

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Confidentiality

All submissions except those made in confidence will be published on the Authority's website.

For submissions made by individuals, all personal details other than your name and the state or territory in which you reside will be removed from your submission before it is published.

Do you want this submission to be treated as confidential? Yes No

1. Have you interacted with the National Wind Farm Commissioner on a complaint about a proposed or operating wind farm? If so, please tell us about the nature of the complaint.

N/A

2. If you have interacted with the National Wind Farm Commissioner on a complaint about a proposed or operating wind farm, would you like to comment on how the complaint process was conducted?

N/A

3. The Terms of Reference for the National Wind Farm Commissioner say that the Commissioner will lead efforts to promote best practice, information availability and provide a central, trusted source for disseminating information. Do you have any comments on this aspect of the Commissioner's role?

While much of the role of the Commissioner is targeted towards resolution of complaints regarding wind farms, the MAV believes that these advocacy and information provision elements of the role are equally as important. Promoting best practice, improving the availability of information, and providing a trusted and impartial source of information is critical to supporting the development of wind farms and renewable energy.

The MAV does note that these functions of the role are lower profile compared to the dispute mediation role, and we consider that further work could be done to promote these aspects.

4. Do you think there is an ongoing need for the Commissioner? Do you see this changing in the future? If so, how?

The MAV believes that there is an ongoing need for the role of Commissioner. As development of renewable energy proceeds, the role serves as an important independent body to act with all

parties in the resolution of disputes, dissemination of information, and development of best practice.

5. Do you think the Commissioner's scope, which is currently focused on proposed and operational wind farms is sufficient? Or should it be expanded to other large scale renewable energy projects, such as solar and storage?

While the most contentious aspect of renewable energy to date has been wind farms, the MAV considers that this may not necessarily be the case in the future. Storage solutions in particular are a critical component of developing the renewable energy sector. If the scope of the Commissioner was broadened, it would allow the Commissioner to better react to where the role is most needed.

The MAV would be wary however of an increase in scope without appropriately increasing the resourcing of the Office. There is a risk that if this were the case, the Office would be less effective than in its current state.

6. The Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner is funded from the Commonwealth budget at a cost of approximately \$676,000 per year. Do you think the Commissioner's office should continue to be funded in this way or should other funding models (like cost recovery from industry) be considered?

The MAV believes that funding of the Office from the Commonwealth budget is appropriate. Funding of the Office through a cost recovery mechanism from industry could damage the perceived impartiality and independence of the Office, as well as increasing the costs of investment in renewable energy.

7. Do you have any other comments about the role of National Wind Farm Commissioner?

The MAV has had positive interactions with the Commissioner, and is currently working together with the Commissioner, local councils, and the Victorian Government to improve procedures for the handling of wind farm complaints to councils in Victoria.