



Central

Local Government Region of South Australia

Incorporated under provisions of the Local Government Act

ABN: 34 728 242 315

Chairman:

Mayor James Maitland

Executive Officer:

Anita Crisp

Postal Address:

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CRYSTAL BROOK SA 5523

Telephone:

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Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

9th February 2011

Facsimile:

08 86385517

Email:

ceo@centralregion.sa.gov.au

Website:

www.centralregion.sa.gov.au

Member Councils:

- The Barossa
- Barunga West
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys
- Copper Coast
- Flinders Ranges
- Goyder
- Light Regional
- Mallala
- Mount Remarkable
- Northern Areas
- Orroroo/Carrieton
- Peterborough
- Port Pirie Regional
- Wakefield Regional
- Yorke Peninsula

RE: SENATE INQUIRY - THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RURAL WIND FARMS

Please find attached a copy of correspondence from the Central Local Government Region of Councils forwarded to the South Australian Minister for Planning and Urban Development and our Local Government Association of South Australia last year, which may be of interest to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Anita Crisp
Executive Officer



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Hon Paul Holloway
Minister for Planning and Urban Development
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

ABN: 34 728 242 315

16th September 2010

RE: PLANNING FOR WINDFARM INDUSTRY EXPANSION

Chairman:
James Maitland

Dear Minister,

Executive Officer:
Anita Crisp

The Central Local Government Region is a regional subsidiary under South Australian Local Government Act 1999 as amended, incorporating some 15 Councils right across the Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges Lower and Mid North areas of South Australia and representing around one quarter of the regional population and incorporated landmass of the state.

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At its August 2010 meeting, the Central Region noted the high priority by the current State Government to significantly expand the wind energy industry across rural South Australia in coming years.

Telephone:
08 8638 5557

In the Mid North alone, there are around twenty windfarm developments either installed, approved or proposed - amounting to some 2,000 turbines which will be located within an approximate 100km radius.

Facsimile:
08 8638 5517

To date it appears the industry has progressed at a much faster rate than the planning or regulatory process to ensure a well managed expansion and there is currently limited guidance provided to Councils, particularly around cumulative impact.

Email:
ceo@centralregion.sa.gov.au

Windfarms have a significant visual impact across a whole landscape (ie not confined just to the immediate surrounds of the development), which is not dealt with in the current Better Development Plan module.

Website:
www.centralregion.sa.gov.au

Furthermore, turbine height/output and the number of turbines in each development have substantially increased over the past few years. Ancillary issues around rateability of windfarm developments, compensation for damage to local public infrastructure and ongoing responsibility for monitoring/compliance have also been raised in various forums, with growing concern around the adequacy of the current noise standards, potential health impacts, property valuation/saleability also requiring further investigation.

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You would be aware that draft National Wind Farm Development Guidelines have recently been released (July 2010) and provide some additional guidance around matters such as: community and stakeholder consultation; cumulative impact; wind turbine noise; landscape; birds and bats; shadow flicker; electromagnetic interference; aircraft safety; blade glint; fire risk and heritage.

In this context, and in light of the pending expansion of the industry, we are seeking support from the State Government and also the Local Government Association of SA to review and strengthen current planning, regulation and management around windfarm development in this state in recognition of the need to balance the large-scale industrial nature of these developments with high value conservation, tourism, community and landscape zones across the region.

We would be pleased to discuss this matter further and can be contacted through our Executive Officer on (08) 8638 5557 or email: ceo@centralregion.sa.gov.au, should you require further information in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Mayor James Maitland
Chair - Central Local Government Region of SA
cc: LGA SA