

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impacts of Rural Windfarms

Further to the Senate Community Affairs Inquiry into Rural Windfarms Committee's Question on Notice to me during evidence I gave today, please find attached the following information I have been able to locate that may be relevant, however, AAAA recommends the Committee formally ask CASA to confirm the rules surrounding the marking or reporting of tall structures and associated websites.

A key issue is whether the obstacle is in the vicinity of an airport or not as different rules may apply. This is the issue I raised in evidence as to whether CASA has a head of power under the Civil Aviation Act to make regulations for aviation safety away from the vicinity of airports.

I also note that under current requirements, even if a tower has to be reported to the RAAF Tall Structures Database, this information is not, to the best of AAAA's knowledge, made available in a database form to pilots. There is a considerable time-lag between reporting of an obstacle and its appearance on maps, and a further complication that not all pilots may update their maps frequently, nor use those maps (eg WAC chart) for low level operations close to base.

From a search of the CASA website, the following appears to be the relevant information sought by the Committee.

The current regulation from the CASA/AGs website seem to confirm that the current height threshold for the reporting of obstacles is 110 metres. The relevant CASA Regulation as far as I can determine is CASR Part 135.365. A copy of that regulation and related elements can be viewed here and **a copy is included at the end of this email in bold** for easier reference:

http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2010C00851/Html/Volume_4#param0

CASA has also produced an advisory Circular on Tall Structures that I think is still current and which is somewhat confusing, but which seems to reinforce the 110 m thresh-hold. It can be viewed at:
<http://casa.gov.au/wcmswr/assets/main/rules/1998casr/139/139c08.pdf>

CASA commenced work on an Advisory Circular for Windfarm Marking, but I understand they withdrew the AC and it is no longer in force. The AC did not appear to cover the issue of wind monitoring towers, but only wind turbines. A copy of the draft can be viewed at:
<http://www.casa.gov.au/newrules/parts/139/download/ac139-018.pdf>

I hope that this answers the Committee's question, but I am happy to provide further information if required.

Yours sincerely

Phil Hurst
CEO - Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia