

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 84
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)
Topic: Wind Farm Commissioner - Scientific Committee on Wind Farms
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: And maybe on notice as well, just what you have done with that committee and how it interlinks with the commission role.

Dr de Brouwer: We can go through that, but if it is easier we can put it on notice.

Senator URQUHART: If you can go through it quickly, I am happy to do that.

CHAIR: If you can go through it very quickly; otherwise I think it might be safer, if it is going to be complicated, to put it on notice.

Dr de Brouwer: Alright. It is a way of getting technical advice around acoustics, health and other aspects—so it is drawing off that scientific expertise and distilling that, analogous to the way the independent expert scientific committee does on coal seam gas and water. It is a way of drawing together some expertise across a range of disciplines, but in support of the commissioner.

Senator URQUHART: Maybe on notice you could provide more information around the skills and the expertise of the people who are on the committee.

Dr Dickson: The people who have been appointed has been made public.

Senator URQUHART: Yes, that is fine. Just their expertise and skills.

Answer:

As per the announcement of the appointment of the National Wind Farm Commissioner and Independent Scientific Committee on Wind Turbines by the Minister for the Environment on 9 October 2015 (<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/mr20151009.html>), details on the Committee are:

Chair: Adjunct Professor John Davy. Professor Davy has been Adjunct Professor of RMIT University since 2009 and Principal Research Scientist, Infrastructure Technologies, CSIRO building acoustics research since 2005. Research interests include the prediction of diffuse field sound insulation, the directivity of sound insulation, the directivity of the radiation of sound from openings, reverberant and anechoic sound fields, microphone turbulence screens, urban noise and building acoustics measurements. Professor Davy has been a fellow of the Australian Acoustical Society since 2008 and Chair of the Performance and Approvals Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia since 2011.

Dr Kym Burgemeister. Dr Burgemeister is Associate Principal at Arup with over 20 years' experience as an acoustic engineer. He specialises in measuring, predicting and assessing noise and vibration from industry and transport infrastructure. He has worked on major highway and railway projects in Australia, the UK and the US and wrote the draft Victorian guidelines for the assessment of wind turbine noise. Dr Burgemeister's role at Arup is to describe, and help clients and their stakeholders understand how acoustics and vibration affects their projects. Dr Burgemeister is the Noise and Vibration Technical Expert for the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA), providing technical advice regarding noise and vibration aspects of their rating credits.

Associate Professor Simon Carlile. Associate Professor Simon Carlile is the Head of the Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory, Discipline of Physiology in the School of Medical Sciences at the University of Sydney, and is also Senior Director of Research at the Starkey Hearing Research Centre in Berkeley, USA. Professor Carlile's expertise covers hearing science including hearing impairment and the development and applications of virtual auditory space technologies.

Clinical Professor David Hillman. Dr Hillman is a sleep physician at the Department of Pulmonary Physiology and Sleep Medicine at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, Western Australia and a director of the West Australian Sleep Disorders Research Institute. Dr Hillman is a respiratory physiologist, anaesthetist and sleep physician. His clinical and research interests focus on the physiology of the respiratory system and upper airway and their relationship to respiratory disease, sleep disorders and anaesthesia. He has published extensively in these and related areas. He is a fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and an honorary fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He is a Clinical Professor at the University of Western Australia and a past president of the Australasian Sleep Association and of the Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine. He is founding chair of Australia's Sleep Health Foundation, a national charity devoted to improving sleep health.

The Committee has been established to build on the work of the National Health and Medical Research Council and provide advice on the science and monitoring of potential impacts of wind turbine sound on health and the environment.

The Committee complements the work of the National Wind Farm Commissioner to identify needs and priorities for monitoring efforts to deliver transparency of information.