

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

**Question No:** 09  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Program:** International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)  
**Topic:** Noise Impacts  
**Hansard Page:** 65  
**Question Date:** 05 May 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Back, Chris asked:**

**Senator BACK:** In February, question 81 asked you whether there would be an increase in noise impact and therefore separation distances with the increasing size of turbines. At the time, you indicated there was preliminary expert advice to say that there would not be an impact. Can I draw your attention to a peer-reviewed study from two Danish university researchers, Moller and Pedersen, in a paper titled 'Low frequency noise from large wind turbines' published recently in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. They do draw the conclusion that larger turbines produce more noise and have a larger footprint on the surrounding landscape, and also alter the spectrum of that noise. Could you take that question on notice and have somebody look at that work and come back to the committee with a view either confirmed or changed?

**Mr Dyer:** Sorry, could you clarify the key question there for me?

**Senator BACK:** Yes, in February you indicated that you thought that an increasing size of wind turbines should not have an adverse effect on the overall noise impact of the wind farms. Firstly, what advice were you relying on for that and, secondly, would you direct others to look at the work of Moller and Pedersen to see whether your earlier evidence stands?

**Mr Dyer:** Okay

**Answer:**

All wind farms are required to comply with the relevant standards for the development and operation of wind farms set by the particular jurisdiction that has issued the permit. While larger-sized turbines may generate a different noise profile than smaller turbines, a wind farm developer or operator is still required to make any necessary adjustments to ensure the relevant standards are met.

The preliminary expert advice that informed the Commissioner's response to the question posed by Senator Back on 8 February 2016 was provided by an experienced acoustician engaged in the wind farm industry.

This preliminary advice remains current and is consistent with subsequent advice provided by the Chair of the Independent Scientific Committee on Wind Turbines.