Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice **Environment portfolio**

Question No: 202

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Clean Energy Regulator

Topic: GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 28 October 2014

Question Type: Written

Senator Madigan asked:

- 1) What evidence did the operator of the Gullen Range Wind Farm provide to the Clean Energy Regulator to prove that all relevant approvals had been satisfied?
- 2) If applicable, how many LGCs have been created by the Gullen Range Wind Farm power station?
- 3) If appropriate, has the operator signed any standing notices for the certificates that the power station has been issued thus far?
- 4) If so, has the operator of Gullen Range ever indicated on the standing notice form that there has been a breach?
- 5) Were any standing notices signed after the operator was formally informed by the NSW state authority that it was in breach?

Answer:

The documents submitted during the accreditation process include the Project Approval which was determined on 26 June 2009 as well as a Major Project assessment completed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (the Department). The full list of documents including Environmental Assessments is available on the Department's website at:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=1310.

The Clean Energy Regulator's accreditation decision was made on 25 November 2013. The first public statement made by the Department alleging that towers were not located in accordance with the approved indicative plan was on 28 February 2014.

- 2. As at 5 November 2014 the proponents for Gullen Range Wind Farm have created 47,649 Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs), of which 47,592 have passed validation audit.
- 3. Standing notices have been provided by the wind farm operator for all LGCs created to date.
- 4. No. The Department has not, to date, alleged a breach or contravention of their legislation.
- 5. A draft order to move some turbines has been issued by the Department. However, formal orders have not been made. While the Department has alleged that some turbines are not located as per an approved indicative plan, it has not alleged any breach or contravention of NSW law to date.