



National Wind Farm Commissioner

All-Energy Australia Presentation

11 October 2017

Andrew Dyer
National Wind Farm Commissioner

www.nwfc.gov.au

Agenda

- The role of the Commissioner
- Achievements to date
- Wind farm information
- Complaint statistics
- Annual Report - observations and recommendations on collaboration and engagement in wind farm development
- Key messages

Role

- Commenced in November 2015 for a three year term to:
 - ✓ Facilitate the handling of complaints from concerned community residents about planned and operating wind farms;
 - ✓ Identify and promote best practices for industry, government and related agencies to adopt with regard to the planning, operation and governance of wind farms; and
 - ✓ Improve information access and transparency about proposed and operating wind farms and the industry.
- National, independent role – reporting directly to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy.
- Commissioner's Terms of Reference at www.nwfc.gov.au.

Achievements to date

- Establishment of office and employment of staff
- Implementation of complaint handling policy, systems and process
- Independent website launched – www.nwfc.gov.au
- Extensive stakeholder engagement – more than 600 stakeholders including government, community, industry and experts
- Site visits to 25 operating/proposed wind farms and numerous residences
- Received 145 complaints, with 112 cases closed (as at 30 September)
- Identification and promotion of best practices
- Developed a range of preliminary observations & recommendations – detailed in the Commissioner's 2016 Annual Report to Parliament.

25 wind farm sites visited

(*proposed wind farm sites)

Victoria:

Ararat
Bald Hills
Cape Bridgewater
Hawkesdale*
Hepburn
Lal Lal*
Macarthur
Moorabool*
Oaklands Hill
Waubra
Wonthaggi
Willatook*

NSW:

Bango*
Collector*
Coppabella*
Crudine Ridge*
Cullerin Range
Gullen Range
Gunning
Jupiter*

South Australia:

Hallet
Palmer*
Snowtown
Waterloo

Tasmania:

Musselroe

Wind farms: summary

- Industry in Australia began in late 1990s, most wind farms built after 2000.
- Approximately 79 operating wind farms in Australia.
- Total current capacity = 4,803 MW (2,180 turbines).
- Some 67 wind farms in the 'development' pipeline.
- Approximately 12,000 MW of potential capacity and 3,800 turbines in pipeline.
- Majority of proposed wind farms are for VIC (26), SA (18) and NSW (12).
- Additional 4,000 MW (approx.) required to meet the 2020 RET.
- Industry comprises both prospective developers and longer term owner/operators.

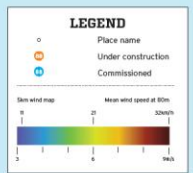


The voice for Australia's clean energy industry

ecogeneration

Wind Map of Australia 2017

Created and published by Ecogeneration Pty Ltd. Tel: +61 2 9429 9555 | Email: quinn@ecogeneration.com.au
 For additional copies of this map, and for advertising enquiries, email quinn@ecogeneration.com.au
 NOTE: This map is published for informational only and does not represent a final location of major wind projects that are operating or under construction as of January 2017. It does not show exact project locations.
 Wind resources and data provided by: IREDA.
 The wind resource map overlay shows wind speed at 100 metres above ground and is based on IREDA's 5km gridded data set.
 The data set was used to create an approximate contour overlay of major wind projects that are operating and under construction as of January 2017. It does not show exact project locations.
 Lead wind farm locations were marked by combining a number of IREDA simulations and observations were used to both statistically validate the model and validate the final site set. For more information visit www.nwfc.gov.au

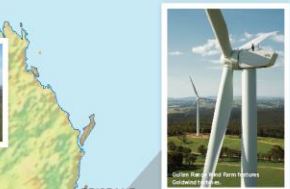


WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 1 Albany Wind Farm, Energy, 2011, 33MW, 16, ENERCON
 2 Cribari Wind Farm, SES Global Asset Management, 2012, 32MW, 15, Vestas
 3 Denmark Community Wind Farm, Denmark Community Wind Farm, 2013, 15MW, 2, ENERCON
 4 Onco Onco Wind Farm, Onco Energy, 2014, 30MW, 14, Vestas
 5 Nepean Wind Diesel Project, Senergy, 2014, 22MW, 2, ENERCON
 6 Lyell Wind Project, Senergy, 2017, 12MW, 2, ENERCON
 7 Mt Barker Community Wind Farm, Mt Barker Power, 2013, 33MW, 3, ENERCON
 8 Murdoch Wind Farm, Senergy, 2014, 22MW, 2, ENERCON
 9 Mt Marshall Community Wind Farm, Senergy, 2014, 16MW, 4, ENERCON
 10 Sun Hill Lagoon (Eastmont) Wind Farm, Senergy, 1993, 24MW, 12, Vestas
 11 Wickepin Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2014, 50MW, 24, Vestas

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 12 Cornuda Wind Farm, International Power, 2014, 48MW, 23, Vestas
 13 Cornhill Wind Farm, Energy, 2014, 33MW, 15, Vestas
 14 Cornhill Wind Farm, Pacific Wind, 2015, 18MW, 23, Vestas
 15 Forest 1 Forest Hills Wind Farm, Pacific Investment Partners, 2017, 34MW, 16, Senvion
 16 Forest 2 Forest Hills Wind Farm, Infrastructure Capital Group, 2017, 34MW, 16, Senvion
 17 Forest 3 Forest Hills Wind Farm, Infrastructure Capital Group, 2017, 34MW, 16, Senvion
 18 Forest 4 Forest Hills Wind Farm, Infrastructure Capital Group, 2017, 34MW, 16, Senvion
 19 Forest 5 Forest Hills Wind Farm, Infrastructure Capital Group, 2017, 34MW, 16, Senvion
 20 Lake Bonnor 2, Vantage Energy, 2015, 65MW, 23, Vestas
 21 Lake Bonnor 2, Vantage Energy, 2015, 65MW, 23, Vestas
 22 Lake Bonnor 2, Vantage Energy, 2015, 65MW, 23, Vestas
 23 Lake Bonnor 2, Vantage Energy, 2015, 65MW, 23, Vestas
 24 Mt Weller Wind Farm, Weller Energy, 2016, 20MW, 10, ENERCON
 25 Stockton Wind Farm Stage 1, TruPower, 2016, 270MW, 90, Senvion
 26 Stockton Wind Farm Stage 2, TruPower, 2016, 270MW, 90, Senvion
 27 Warrambine Wind Farm, EnergyAustralia, 2015, 10MW, 17, Vestas
 28 Wattle Range Wind Farm, Infrastructure Capital Group, 2009, 38MW, 18, Vestas



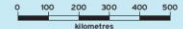
QUEENSLAND
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 29 Windy Hill Wind Farm, MATCO Australia, 2009, 20MW, 20, ENERCON



NEW SOUTH WALES
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 32 Blaxby Wind Farm, Energy, 2010, 10MW, 10, Vestas
 33 Buo Wind Farm, Wind Project CAP, 2014, 5MW, 17, GE
 34 Calga Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 35 Callaghan Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 36 Crooked Wind Farm, Energy, 1998, 42MW, 8, Vestas
 37 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 38 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 39 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
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VICTORIA
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 39 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 40 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
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 100 Curlew Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas

TASMANIA
 No. Project sites, Name, Commissioning year, Capacity (MW), Number of turbines, Turbine manufacturer
 29 Bull Point Wind Farm, Woodview Wind Farm Holdings, 2002, 65MW, 23, Vestas
 30 King Island Energy Hub Wind Farm, King Island Energy, 2012, 2.2 MW, 2, Vestas
 31 Warrane Wind Farm, Vantage Energy, 2016, 14MW, 6, Vestas
 32 Stuart Road Wind Farm, Woodview Wind Farm Holdings, 2002, 23MW, 23, Vestas



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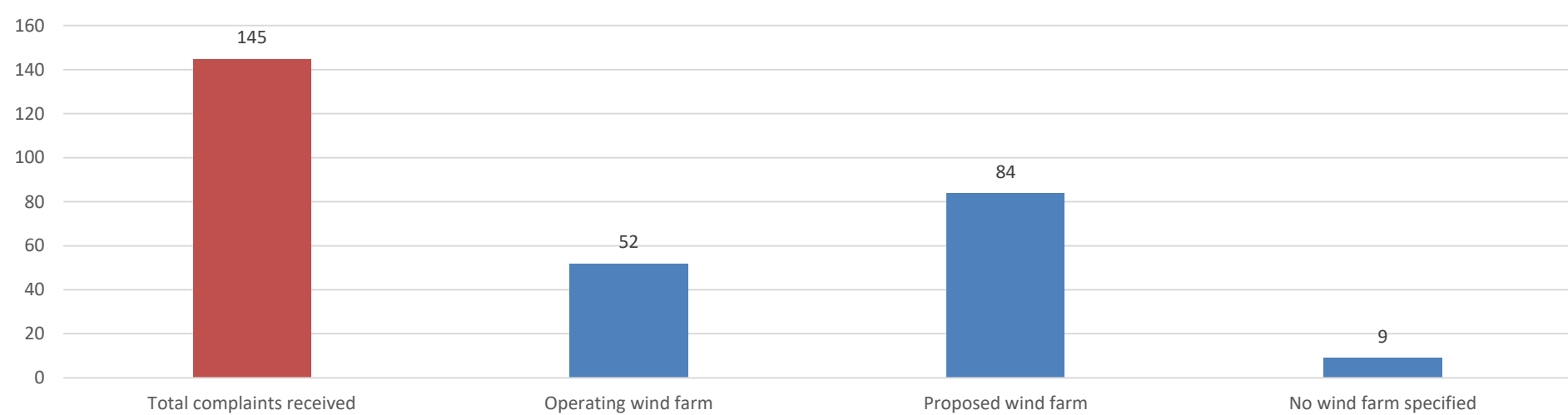
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Complaint statistics

(as at 30 September 2017)

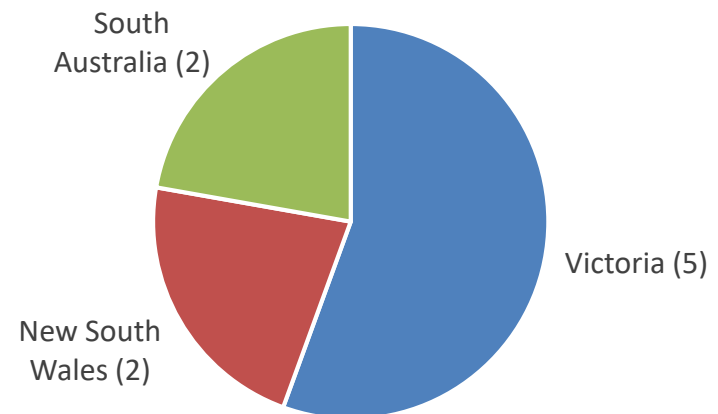


- 145 complaints received
- 52 complaints are from 9 operating wind farms
- 84 complaints are from 29 proposed wind farms
- 9 complaints did not specify a wind farm
- 112 cases closed, remaining 33 cases at various stages of our complaint handling process.

Complaint statistics – operating wind farms

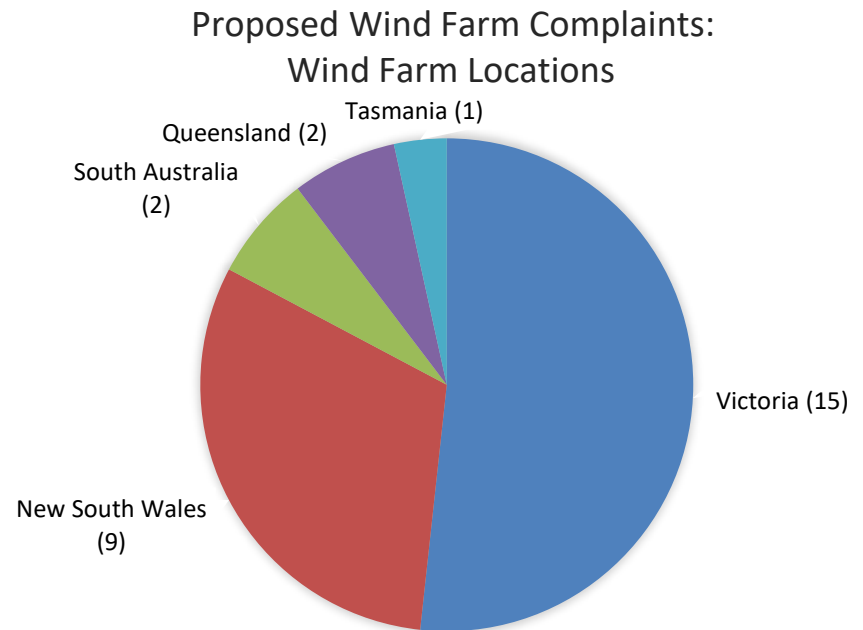
- 52 complaints about nine operating wind farms:
 - Victoria – 29 complaints
 - NSW – 7 complaints
 - South Australia – 16 complaints.
- 49 of these cases have been closed.

Operating Wind Farm Complaints:
Wind Farm Locations



Complaint statistics – planned wind farms

- 84 complaints about 29 proposed wind farms:
 - Victoria – 49 complaints
 - NSW – 25 complaints
 - South Australia – 7 complaints
 - Queensland – 2 complaints
 - Tasmania – 1 complaint.
- 56 of these cases have been closed.



Top 8 complaint issues

- Complaint issue type in order of prevalence:
 - Noise and annoyance from operations (including noise testing process and noise standards) – 49% of complaints
 - Health concerns – 38% of complaints
 - Amenity and impact on views – 30% of complaints
 - Planning process and transparency – 23% of complaints
 - Economic loss (property & opportunity) – 21% of complaints
 - Natural environment – 15% of complaints
 - Community engagement – 14% of complaints
 - Vibration – 13% of complaints.
- Resolutions range from provision of helpful information through to commercial settlements.

2016 Annual Report

Observations and Recommendations

- 1. Host landowner negotiations**
- 2. Neighbour consultation and agreements**
- 3. Community engagement**
4. Length and renewal of planning permits
5. Governance and compliance of standards and permit conditions
6. Selection and use of experts
- 7. Complaint handling and emergency procedures**
8. Site selection
9. Health matters

Observations and Recommendations

1. Host landowner negotiations

- Landowner expectations should be properly managed from the outset (e.g. advised of risks of reduction of turbines).
- Agreements should:
 - be fair and reasonable (landowner should also obtain independent advice prior to entering agreement)
 - be written in plain English
 - clearly outline responsibilities relating to liability insurance, decommissioning (including sources of funding for decommissioning) and other applicable rates, land taxes and emergency service levies.
- Developers should consider providing a level of compensation to all engaged host landowners, regardless of final turbine layout.

Observations and Recommendations

2. Neighbour agreements

- All neighbours within a vicinity of 5km of the wind farms proposed turbines should be identified and consulted where practical.
- Planning authorities, investors and other stakeholders should require evidence of effective neighbour consultations as part of due diligence and approval criteria.
- If used, neighbour agreements should:
 - be negotiable
 - be fair, reasonable and in plain English
 - not restrict neighbours from making complaints about the wind farm
 - not subject neighbours to conditions that exceed permit limits (unless neighbour is an 'involved' participant).
- Proposed mitigation measures such as screening solutions should be realistic and effective.

Observations and Recommendations

3. Community engagement

- Developers should invest in community engagement as early as possible.
- Operators considering purchasing permitted or operating wind farms should also assess effectiveness of community engagement undertaken by the original developer prior to purchase.
- In developing an engagement plan, proponents should consider the following:
 - establish relationships with key community stakeholders
 - establish a Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
 - establish a range of information opportunities for the community
 - establish a transparent and effective complaints handling process
 - assess appropriate ‘make-good’ activities and beneficial improvements in local infrastructure (eg. mobile phone services)
 - establish and maintain a community engagement fund
 - provide evidence to planning authorities and other stakeholders of community engagement plans and outcomes.
- Councils and State Governments should also proactively engage with community and promote community engagement initiatives.

Observations and Recommendations

7. Complaint handling

- Typically, complaint management conditions and permits are limited to noise and construction complaints only.
- Our Office has observed that, while complaint handling procedure documents do exist, few have been published on websites and procedures are not being followed by wind farm operators.
- We have approached a number of wind farms and requested their complaint handling procedure be published – all have complied/agreed to date.
- States should consider modifying permit conditions to reflect:
 - Expanding complaint handling procedure requirements to include all complaint types in a prominent section of the permit
 - Introducing a permit condition requiring the complaint handling procedure to be published
 - Introducing a permit condition requiring the complaint handling procedure to be followed
 - The ability and powers to audit a wind farm's complaint handling activities and complaints register to confirm compliance with the procedures and therefore the permit.

Other observations

- Multiple channels for communicating with community (website, newsletters, information sessions, simulations, shop fronts, signage etc).
- Engage local staff to manage community relations, when possible.
- Engage the community members to solve problems – much better chance they will own the outcome
- Review and update complaint policies and procedures
- Avoiding repeating standard responses to complaints, when these are unlikely to address the source of the complaint or bring it to closure
- Consult widely on the construction plan
- Work with other developers when multiple wind farm projects are co-located

Summary

- Overall, wind farm complaints received are relatively low but can be complex to resolve
- Significant scope still remains for industry and government to engage more effectively with community stakeholders
- Strongly supportive of organisations such as CEC and Farmers Federations to promote best practice standards in landowner agreements, community engagement and complaint handling