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31 July 2015

Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

Stepnell submission to Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines (Submission No. 470)

I refer to your letter dated 23 July 2015 concerning a submission made to the Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines (**Committee**) by Ms Samantha Stepnell.

The submission concentrates heavily on noise related issues which the submission alleges are not in compliance with planning permits.

Acciona's Australian wind farms operate at world's best practice, within local guidelines and regulations and are compliant with their planning permits. As the Committee is aware, the Victorian Minister for Planning recently confirmed that he was satisfied that Acciona's Waubra Wind Farm complies with the noise condition in its planning permits. A copy of the Minister's correspondence is attached. It is important for the Committee to understand and acknowledge the extent of the detailed acoustic work undertaken by Acciona, and supervised by independent expert acoustic consultants (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd) in giving the Minister for Planning the comfort to provide that confirmation to Acciona and the public.

Acciona has been and will continue to strongly engage in community dialogue and liaison, including the concerns and issues raised by local residents.

Acciona now wishes to raise a number of procedural matters.

Acciona first learned of Ms Stepnell's submission on 23 July 2015 upon receipt of your letter. At the date of this letter, submission 470 is still not available on the Committee's website.

Ms Stepnell's 32 page submission is undated. It is not apparent when the submission was received by the Committee. The submission contains and seeks to make detailed and at times critical comments and assertions concerning a wide range of documents. In turn, Acciona has been afforded only 6 business days to respond to the submission and the wide array of matters raised therein. Furthermore, Acciona considers it is at an unwarranted disadvantage in circumstances where the Committee may choose to selectively publish or refer to the submission and the documents that have been referenced.



Acciona also made its own submission to the Committee (Submission No. 294) which we hope will be considered when the Committee's final report is prepared.

Lastly, as I mentioned in my letter to the Committee of 20 July 2015, Acciona was disappointed not to have been given the opportunity to present at the Committee's Sydney public hearing.

Yours sincerely, 

Andrew Thomson
Managing Director



Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning

COPY

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Mr Andrew Thompson
Director
Pyrenees Wind Energy Developments Pty Ltd
Level 12, Freshwater Place
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SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Thompson

WAUBRA WIND FARM - NOISE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

I write to advise that I am satisfied the sound level from the operation of the Waubra Wind Energy Facility currently complies with condition 14 of planning permits PL-SP/05/05/0152A and PL-SP/05/0150A.

My decision takes into account the noise assessment undertaken by Marshall Day Acoustics dated 4 October 2010 and the Subjective Assessment for Special Audible Characteristics undertaken by Aecom dated 1 September 2014

If you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter please contact Paul Jarman, Manager, Planning Project Implementation, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

28/2/2015