



Department of Health

Incorporating: Health, Mental Health and Ageing



COPY

50 Lonsdale St
Melbourne
Victoria 3000
GPO Box 4541
Melbourne
Victoria 3001
Telephone: 1300 253 942
Facsimile: 1300 253 964
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210311

Our Ref: ADD/12/2271

Your Ref:

02 FEB 2012

Mr [REDACTED]
Chief Executive Officer
Pyrenees Shire Council
Lawrence St
BEAUFORT VIC 3373

PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL	
FILE NO:	66/22/04
DOC NO:	128/15785
08 FEB 2012	
ACTION:	S. CORNISH
INFORMATION:	

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 20th December regarding noise complaints associated with Waubra Wind farm.

As you have identified in your letter, the Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for ensuring that the conditions of the planning permit, including the compliance requirements for operational noise, are met.

I am advised that officers from the department have spoken to officers from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and we can advise that DPCD is working with the Waubra wind farm operator to resolve these noise compliance issues. We have been further advised that this work will result in an approved methodology to measure noise compliance at dwellings. A work plan is to be finalised soon.

Noise complaints about the Waubra wind farm should be referred to Eoghan McColl, Planning Co-ordinator, Grampians Region (DPCD) on 5327 2863.

I acknowledge the difficulties you have outlined in your letter regarding Pyrenees Shire Council's inability to investigate the complaints you have received. However, with respect to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, it is the responsibility of Councils to administer Part 6 of this Act.

Regarding your request for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), you may be aware that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has conducted a review of the evidence of any alleged health effects of wind farms, and has concluded there is no evidence to support these claims. They are now updating this evidence review which is expected to be released late this year.

I do not believe that a Health Impact Assessment would add anything to this process.

I trust this information assists you. Please call [REDACTED] Manager Healthy Environments, on [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dr [REDACTED]
Acting Director, Health Protection
Acting Chief Health Officer

Cc Planning Co-ordinator Grampians Region, DPCD
Cc Director Health & Aged Care, Grampians Region