

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION



Our ref: DOC/25/86482
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5 August 2025

Mrs Catherine Murdoch
Director
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 1550
HOBART TAS 7001

By email: Catherine.Murdoch@epa.tas.gov.au

Dear Mrs Murdoch

**Cellars Hill Wind Farm Major Project
Request for further advice concerning EPA Board policy
Operational noise level limits for wind energy projects**

Thank you for your representation on the Cellars Hill Wind Farm Major Project draft assessment criteria and advice that the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA Board) has adopted a new policy.

As you would be aware the statutory process is ongoing, and the Panel may modify the draft assessment criteria before preparing final assessment criteria.

To assist the Panel's consideration of the EPA Board's representation, it would be helpful if you could provide advice on the following matters by 21 August 2025:

1. The statutory basis of the *EPA Board Policy - Operational noise level limits for wind energy projects*, such as, is it an environmental standard under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act);
2. Any formal engagement that has been undertaken in formation of the policy, such as, with wind farm proponents; and
3. The reasons / rationale for establishing the relevant noise levels in the policy. Please note as the Panel has a copy of the 2020 briefing paper that explained the reasons for the initial policy.

I note the representation considers that the assessment criteria's reference to the New Zealand Standard is inconsistent with the EPA Board's assessment requirement notice (ARN).

An ARN enables participating regulators to identify the matters that should be addressed by assessment criteria. The Panel's role and responsibility is to then draft and determine what the assessment criteria are.

The EPA Board ARN identifies operational noise as matter to be addressed, and the draft assessment criteria addresses the matter. Consequently, your representation does not highlight an inconsistency between the ARN and the draft assessment criteria.

The Panel understand that the EPA Board's guidance sets out information that will allow the Board to have a sufficient information base for its environmental impact assessment. The assessment criteria seek to provide proponents guidance on this in Appendix C, so that a sufficient information base is provided.

The EPA Board's guidance to the Panel under the EMPC Act will of course be considered by the Panel. To date this has occurred with the initial guidance, and as outlined above the Panel would be interested in receiving additional information on the reasons for the policy which will assist its consideration of the EPA Board's guidance and ARN.

If you require further information please contact Luke Newman, Senior Planning Adviser on (03) 6165 6816.

Yours sincerely



Paul West
Chairperson
Development Assessment Panel

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