



21 August 2018

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP  
Minister for Planning  
C/- Mr Michael Juttner  
Manager Wind Farms, State Planning Services  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
Level 8, 8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Minister,

**BALD HILLS WIND FARM**

We are pleased to advise that we have concluded operational noise compliance monitoring at Bald Hills Wind Farm (*BHWF*) and the results have demonstrated the wind farm's compliance with the noise limits in condition 19 of Planning Permit TRA/03/002 (*Planning Permit*).

A brief chronology of work performed is presented in the table below:

Date	Work Performed	Conclusion
Dec 2016	Report presenting data collected at 13 receiver locations during 18 month period between June 2015 and September 2016.	<b>All hour assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance demonstrated at 13 locations.</li> </ul> <b>Night hour assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance demonstrated at 9 locations.</li> <li>- Compliance not demonstrated for a limited range of wind speeds at 4 locations.</li> </ul>
Dec 2016	Preliminary curtailment strategy implemented to reduce wind farm noise levels at 4 relevant locations during the night time period and specific wind conditions. Strategy uses sound reduction modes for certain turbines, wind speeds and directions.	
May 2017	Report presenting data collected at 4 relevant locations during 2 month period between January 2017 and February 2017.	<b>All hour assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance demonstrated at 13 locations.</li> </ul> <b>Night hour assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compliance demonstrated at 12 locations.</li> <li>- Compliance not demonstrated for a limited range of wind speeds at 1 location (an unoccupied property).</li> </ul>
May 2017	Revised curtailment strategy implemented to reduce wind farm noise levels at 1 relevant location during the night time period and specific wind conditions. Strategy uses sound reduction modes for certain turbines, wind speeds and directions.	
Aug 2017	Letter to DELWP dated 7 August 2017	Data collected in June 2017 inconclusive in demonstrating night hour compliance for limited range of wind speeds at 1 location due to the effect of background sound levels
Sept 2017	Attended Measurement Test Plan submitted to DELWP	Testing methodology to be adopted for conducting attended measurements, in order to aid the identification of wind farm related noise levels at 1 relevant location during periodic shutdowns of selected turbines.
Feb 2018	Attended Measurements conducted at night time with relevant wind speeds pursuant to the Attended Measurements Test Plan and in accordance with the Noise Compliance Test Plan ( <i>NCTP</i> ) and <i>NZS 6808:1998 Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators</i> , as required by condition 19 of the Planning Permit.	

Aug 2018	Report presenting data collected at 1 relevant location in Feb 2018 in accordance with Attended Measurement Test Plan.	Presence of background noise confirmed and compliance demonstrated at 1 relevant location. <b>All hour assessment</b> - Compliance demonstrated at 13 locations. <b>Night hour assessment</b> - Compliance demonstrated at 13 locations.
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In September 2017, we advised that attended measurements were necessary for one location where the results of previous compliance monitoring had been inconclusive. The attended measurements were completed in February 2018. The results of this test, in conjunction with the results of the longer term compliance monitoring, demonstrate the wind farm's compliance with the noise limits in the Planning Permit at all receiver locations assessed pursuant to the NCTP.

In this regard, please find **enclosed**:

- (a) a cover letter and appendices prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics (**MDA**) dated 15 August 2018 collating all relevant documentation concerning noise compliance monitoring at BHWF. This includes a report detailing the results of attended measurements at Tenement B; and
- (b) a peer review of MDA's report prepared by EnviroRisk dated 15 August 2018 concluding that MDA's attended measurements report has been prepared in accordance with the endorsed NCTP and the Attended Measurements Plan. EnviroRisk also concur with MDA's conclusion that the measurement results demonstrate compliance with the Planning Permit requirements at Tenement Property B.

We note that compliance with the operational noise requirements of the Planning Permit has been demonstrated while the revised noise curtailment strategy continues to be implemented at the project site. We confirm that this curtailment strategy will remain in place until such time that alternative information is prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning to demonstrate that this strategy is no longer required.

BHWF can also confirm it is formulating a procedure with Senvion and MDA that will allow DELWP, the National Wind Farm Commissioner and other independent bodies to verify that the wind farm is operating in accordance with the noise curtailment strategy. We anticipate that it will take 3-4 months to finalise this procedure.

Conditions 23 and 24 of the Planning Permit have now been satisfied for the purpose of assessing compliance with condition 19. We would be pleased to meet with you or DELWP representatives to further discuss the results of the completed noise monitoring at the wind farm. Otherwise, please contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,



James Arthur  
Director