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13 December 2011

Commissioner for Renewable Energy

Level 17, 31 Flinders St

Education Building

Adelaide SA 5000

By email: climatechange@dpc.sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/ Madam,

CEC Response to the Wind Farms- Notification Regime and Land Division Discussion Paper

The Clean Energy Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the **Wind Farms- Notification Regime and Land Division Discussion Paper**

The Clean Energy Council is the peak body representing Australia's renewable energy and energy efficiency industries with around 590 members.

Its priorities are to:

- create the optimal conditions in Australia to stimulate investment in the development and deployment of world's best clean energy technologies;
- develop effective legislation and regulation to reduce energy demand and improve its efficient use; and
- work to reduce costs and remove all other barriers to accessing clean energy.

The Clean Energy Council works with members and the government to identify and address the barriers to efficient industry development in the stationary energy and energy efficiency sector.

The Clean Energy Council supports effective policies being implemented which continue to support the deployment of renewable energy projects and the attraction of clean energy investment and creation of jobs throughout rural and regional South Australia. Wind power as the lowest cost form of large scale renewable energy is an integral part of the renewable energy mix required to meet South Australia's 33 per cent renewable energy target.

South Australia has a vast resource potential for wind energy and currently holds 53 per cent of the nation's installed wind capacity. The wind industry is of huge economic importance to the state not only through the creation of jobs during the development, construction and

ongoing operation of the wind farm but also throughout the supply chain including the manufacturers and suppliers of products and services to the industry. Over \$2.8 billion has been invested into the state's wind power sector so far, generating over 800 direct jobs and over 2400 indirect jobs. An environment that provides sufficient certainty is required to underpin investment in the generation capacity that will be required to meet the changing needs of the South Australian residential and business population. Consistent and effective regulatory and planning policy is required to shore up the continuing success of the industry in South Australia and to ensure the state's renewable energy target is met at the lowest possible cost.

South Australia's planning system does enjoy a reputation for fairness, transparency and efficiency. It is imperative that any proposed changes to the planning system maintain this by ensuring the amendments do not place an additional burden on the development of wind farms by creating delays or uncertainties in the planning system. Delays and uncertainties only act to create additional risk in conducting business in the state in turn making wind energy deployment more expensive.

Wind Farm Notification Regime

The Clean Energy Council considers the wind farm reforms announced by the South Australian Government strikes an appropriate balance between supporting clean energy and giving communities a voice in the planning process. The wind industry accepts the need for effective standards for wind projects and the need to engage and communicate with communities during the whole process of wind farm development and construction. The Clean Energy Council and its members support the requirement to notify all owners or occupiers of land within a five kilometre distance of a wind turbine through advertisement in a local newspaper and for adjacent owners or occupiers to also be directly notified in the normal way through letter.

Land Division

The Clean Energy Council and its members support the proposal to remove the need for unnecessary division of rural land in the case of wind farm developments. The requirement for an application for land division to be lodged following the six year lease period is not only onerous but increases risk to the wind farm proposal by adding unnecessary uncertainty to the planning process. In addition the potential for a landowner to be left with a number of separate land holdings on his or her property is undesirable for both the character of rural type zones and possibly the landowner.

Wind power will play a crucial role in South Australia meeting its renewable energy target and reducing carbon emissions. A balanced and effective planning framework will provide the increased certainty needed by the community and the wind industry to make the business investments in generation infrastructure required for economic growth.

If you have any further questions please contact Felicity Sands via telephone on 03 9929 4100 or by email at felicity@cleanenergycouncil.org.au.

Yours sincerely
<original signed>

Russell Marsh
Director of Policy