

18 MAY 2011



COPY

ICR4134

Your Ref: DB.BDA.8

SHIRE OF KOJONUP				
FILE:	DB.BDA.8			
CEO	EC or HC	NFA	MCS	MRCs
RGR	SFO	WM	CDPO	PB
NRSM	SHM	PLAN		

9May 2011

Stephen Gash
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Kojonup
PO Box 163
Kojonup WA 6395

Dear Mr Gash

Re: NHMRC Wind Turbines and Health—A Rapid Review of the Evidence (July 2010)

Thank you for your letter enquiring about wind turbines and health. Professor Anderson has asked me to respond on his behalf. I will address each of your questions separately.

- **Is there a timeframe and/or process for the Rapid Review document to be reviewed and/or updated?**

NHMRC has begun the process of updating the Rapid Review document. We have commenced searching the published literature for any new evidence. A workshop will be held in June bringing together experts in the field and members of the community and government to identify key issues surrounding wind turbines and possible health effects. The outcomes of that workshop will inform further work plans so at this stage it is not possible to say when the work will be complete.

- **Should the Shire continue to rely on the outcomes in the Review when dealing with wind farm applications?**

The purpose of the Rapid Review was to present findings from a search of the evidence from current literature on the potential impacts of wind turbines on human health. Planning issues surrounding wind farm applications are beyond the scope of the document. However, noting the lack of published scientific evidence, NHMRC Council acknowledged public concern and through the Public Statement advised that a precautionary approach is required (and that individuals seek medical opinion should they have any concerns). This remains NHMRC's position.

48

WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA

www.nhmrc.gov.au

GPO Box 1421, Canberra ACT 2601

16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT 2600

T. 13 000 NHMRC (13 000 64672) or +61 2 6217 9000 F. +61 2 6217 9100 E. nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au

ABN 88 601 010 284

- **Are there any other guidelines that the Council itself would use in considering the development of a wind farm?**

There is another set of guidelines which you may find useful if you are not already aware of them. The Environment Protection and Heritage Council's (EPHC) *Draft National Wind Farm Development Guidelines—July 2010* aim to outline best practice for industry and planning authorities in areas including heritage, threatened species and turbine noise. The guidelines can be found on EPHC's website at <http://www.ephc.gov.au/node/449>.

- **Has the Council been approached to contribute to the present Senate Inquiry proposed into wind farms? And if so, what is the Council's likely response?**

NHMRC has contributed a submission to the Senate Inquiry on the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms. It can be found at http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/impact_rural_wind_farms/submissions.htm. NHMRC's submission is number 850.

- **Are there any planning implications (outside of the Rapid Review) that you would recommend our Shire consider in assessing the wind farm application?**

NHMRC is not able to give advice on planning implications, since that is outside its purview. I suggest you look at the EPHC Guidelines mentioned above and perhaps contact the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Planning in Western Australia for more information specific to WA.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Mitchell
A/g Executive Director
Research Translation (Canberra)

11 - 5 - 11