

Our ref: DEPC22/701



16 August 2022

Department of
**State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning**

Mr Matt Lachlan
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Lachlan

Thank you for your letter of 15 July 2022 about the Chalumbin Wind farm. You have raised concerns with my previous letter dated 4 July 2022 including the consideration given by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) to comments received during the assessment period.

Whilst there was no statutory public notification period for the Chalumbin Wind Farm application, during its assessment SARA did receive correspondence about the proposal from concerned parties. The concerns raised in these letters were carefully considered by SARA during the assessment and where relevant were addressed in the decision and conditions of approval.

I acknowledge the concerns you have raised about potential impacts from the wind farm on a range of matters including biodiversity, habitat for vulnerable and endangered species, deforestation, climate change and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. I appreciate the time you have taken to set out these issues so carefully. My previous letter provides an explanation of SARA's decision and the extensive conditions of the approval. I also explained how SARA's assessment was informed by expert technical advice which included advice from other government departments including the Department of Resources and the Department of Environment and Science.

SARA continuously reviews its policies, practices and procedures to ensure its assessments are robust, efficient and result in balanced and pragmatic decisions. SARA is experiencing an increasing volume of wind farm applications throughout the state. In response to these pressures and acknowledging the need to minimise the environmental impacts caused by the construction and operations of wind farms, SARA is reviewing its relevant state codes and guidelines. Matters raised by yourself and other concerned parties are also being considered in these reviews.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Phil Joyce, Director, Planning Group, in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, by telephone on (07) 3452 7449 or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Aston".

Christopher Aston
Acting State Planner
Planning Group

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530