Australian Acoustical Society ACN 000 712 658
ABN 28 000 712 658

PO Box 1843
Toowong DC, QLD 4066
Phone/Fax (07) 3122 2605
13 February, 2013

Michelle Gunn
Editor, The Weekend Australian
letters@theaustralian.com.au
GPO Box 4245
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Editor,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE GRAHAM LLOYD'S ARTICLE *"WORLD'S EYES WILL BE ON WATERLOO AS WIND TURBINES GO ON TRIAL"*

The Australian Acoustical Society aims to promote and advance the science and practice of acoustics in all its branches to the wider community.

We refer to Graham Lloyd's article in the *Weekend Australian* (9/2/13) in which he quotes statements about an infrasound study authored by the South Australian EPA and acoustic consulting firm Resonate Acoustics.

In the interest of advancing the above Society aims we wish to make the following comments on the article:

- The article states that the use of the dB(G) weighting to measure wind turbine infrasound is "inappropriate and misleading". The dB(G) weighting is an accepted assessment method for infrasound. Of the measures currently available, the dB(G) weighting best corresponds to human perception of infrasound, as described in International Standard ISO 7196:1995, "Acoustics - Frequency-weighting characteristic for infrasound measurements".

- The article reports that "the use of a 10-second average removed the acoustic signature of the turbines". The ISO 7196 standard method requires that a minimum 10-second average is required for very low frequency noise. We note that the development of this ISO standard method has been the collaborative work of many industry experts.

- The article presents selected outcomes of the Wisconsin (Shirley) infrasound report. We note that several of the conclusions of the Wisconsin study are inconsistent with current research. The authors of the Wisconsin report identified shortfalls in their study. The recommendations of the Wisconsin study were addressed in the recent study released by the SA EPA.

We welcome Graham Lloyd's contact with the Australian Acoustical Society via the general secretary. Our membership base would be able to discuss and provide a broader view on the current status of the science of wind farm acoustics. We invite the author to solicit the views of other professionals before publishing to ensure the dissemination of fact and not opinion portrayed as such. We also refer you to recent discussions in the Society's Acoustics Australia journal on this matter, available on our website at http://www.acoustics.asn.au/joomla/australian-acoustics-journal-december-2012.html.

Yours sincerely,

Australian Acoustical Society
Federal Council