



Office of Hon Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Communications and Information Technology

Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

20 SEP 2013

ENV 10976

Paul Stichbury
paulstichbury@gmail.com

Dear Mr Stichbury

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2013 and letters of 26 August 2013 and 12 September 2013 to the Hon Chris Finlayson regarding the Turitea Wind Farm Proposal and Judge Shonagh Kenderdine. I am responding to your letters in part as some of the matters that you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for the Environment.

I must reiterate my response of the 1st of February that under section 149J of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Minister must appoint one member as the chairperson. The chairperson must be a current, former or retired Environment Judge or retired High Court Judge for a proposal of national significance. The fact that retired Environment Court Judge Kenderdine no longer held an active warrant as a judge at the end of the board of inquiry would not have precluded her from continuing to chair the board of inquiry. This also includes being paid as the chair, or signing the release of the draft and final decision.

I can assure you that I take the board of inquiry appointment process very seriously. As a matter of course, all prospective board members are subject to a rigorous screening process to determine their suitability for the role. The process followed for appointment of the Turitea Wind Farm board of inquiry members, including retired Environment Court Judge Kenderdine, was no exception.

I remain confident that the Board and its Chairperson have fulfilled all their statutory duties.

Yours sincerely

Hon Amy Adams
Minister for the Environment