



Minister for Planning

28 NOV 2008

Ref: CMIN002674
File: PL-PL/02/1210

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Mr Sedat Erol
Developer
RES Australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 1274
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Dear Mr Erol

REFERRAL OF A PROJECT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978 ARARAT WIND FARM

Thank you for your referral of the proposed Ararat Wind Farm under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, which was received on 4 September 2008.

I understand that Renewable Energy Services Australia Pty Ltd (RES Australia) proposes to develop a wind energy facility comprising 76 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure, and that it will be located across two sites approximately 7 kilometres northeast of Ararat. This proposal is a variation and increase in capacity on a previously referred proposal which included 50 turbines, which I determined did not require an Environment Effects Statement (EES).

I have determined that assessment through an EES is not required for this modified proposal, for the reasons attached.

I note that the proposal would be the subject of planning permit applications under the Ararat Planning Scheme and Northern Grampians Planning Scheme. It is my expectation, as the responsible authority for this wind energy facility under those schemes, that the planning permit application will be supported by the range of studies outlined in your referral package.

Yours sincerely

JUSTIN MADDEN MLC
Minister for Planning

Encl.

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Ararat Wind Farm

Proponent: RES Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

RES Australia Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind energy facility including up to 76 turbines and associated infrastructure at a location 7 kilometres northeast of Ararat. The turbines are to be constructed on two distinct sites located approximately 1.1 kilometres north, and 500 metres south, of the Pyrenees Highway. The proposed wind energy facility is to be within the Northern Grampians Shire and the Ararat Rural City.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is not required for the Ararat Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 4 September 2008.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project location consists of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid adverse effects on indigenous flora and Aboriginal cultural heritage, if either listed species or significant heritage places are identified in detailed site investigations.
- Potential effects on other avifauna, landscape values and residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only, with some potential for mitigation.
- The potential environmental effects of the project can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Date of Decision: 28 NOV 2008