



## 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

Friday, 28 November, 2008

## **NO EES REQUIRED FOR REVISED ARARAT WIND FARM**

An environment effects statement (EES) will not be required for an increase in the number of turbines at a proposed wind farm near Ararat.

Planning Minister Justin Madden said the Brumby Government is committed to delivering on its Renewable Energy Target of a minimum of 10 per cent by 2016.

“The Brumby Government is taking action on renewable energy,” Mr Madden said.

“Previously it had been decided an EES was not required for the proposed 50 turbine wind farm facility.

“In the revised plans submitted by the proponent, plans included 12 turbines in the northern section of the site and 64 turbines in the southern section closer to the Pyrenees Highway.”

The proponent now proposes to develop a wind farm including up to 76 turbines and associated infrastructure at a location seven kilometres northeast of Ararat, within the Northern Grampians Shire and the Ararat Rural City.

“I am pleased that the proposed expansion of turbines at the Ararat Wind Farm may in the future assist in meeting the Brumby Government’s *Victorian Renewable Energy Target*.”

“The location consists of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the position of turbines to avoid adverse effects on the local environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage,” he said.

It is proposed the turbines be constructed on two distinct sites located approximately 1.1 kilometres north, and 500 metres south, of the Pyrenees Highway.

The potential for specific local environmental effects of the project, along with the views of the community and stakeholders, will be considered through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

For further information go to: [www.dpced.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpced.vic.gov.au)