

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Mortlake Wind Farm

Proponent: Acciona Energy Oceania Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

Acciona Energy proposes to develop a wind farm, comprising up to 100 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure in south west Victoria. The wind farm would be developed on two distinct sites (Mortlake South site and Mortlake East site) with current planning for up to 50 turbines on each site. The Mortlake East site is located approximately 9.5 km east of Mortlake and is dissected by the Darlington – Terang Road. The Mortlake South site is located approximately 5 km south of Mortlake and is situated adjacent to the Terang – Mortlake Road. The two sites are located approximately 5 km from each other.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Mortlake Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 3 September 2007.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project sites mostly consist 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.
- Although the potential effects on the regional Brolga population is uncertain at this stage, the proponent has committed to undertaking targeted surveys to confirm breeding sites and to better understand the way in which Brolgas use the surrounding region. These surveys should provide a useful input into the assessment of potential impacts and decisions whether to approve the project.
- 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 September 2007