

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*  
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R04)**

**Proponent**

RES Australia Pty Ltd

**Project**

Cannie Wind Farm

**Description**

The Cannie Wind Farm project seeks to establish a wind energy facility spanning three local government areas, including Gannawarra, Loddon and Buloke, near the township of Cannie in north-western Victoria. The project is to be broken into two sections: Wind Farm Area, covering approximately 17,870 ha, and the Transmission Corridor Study Area, covering approximately 64,738 ha. The project proposes to develop up to 174 wind turbine generators (WTG) with a total generation capacity of approximately 1,300 MW.

**Decision**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Cannie Wind Farm project, as described in the referral accepted on 23 May 2024.

**Reasons**

- The project has the potential for a range of significant and complex effects that require assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:
  - i. threatened species and communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
  - ii. ecological values of the project area's immediate and adjacent terrestrial and aquatic environments, including groundwater dependent ecosystems, native vegetation, threatened species habitat and the Kerang Lakes Ramsar Site; and
  - iii. tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- There is uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of potential effects related to, noise, visual and amenity, shadow flicker, blade glint, blade throw, electromagnetic interference, historic heritage, soils, traffic and socioeconomic values that also require further assessment.
- The project has potential for cumulative adverse effects on local and regional environmental values in the context of other existing and proposed windfarms within the broader region.
- An EES is warranted to enable an integrated assessment of the environmental effects of the project and to inform decision-making for required approvals. The EES will evaluate feasible, relevant alternatives, including opportunities to avoid and/or minimise potential significant effects through alternative layouts, designs and the effectiveness of proposed mitigation and management measures.
- Integrated assessment via the EES process would inform relevant statutory decision-making, particularly under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.



**Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP  
Minister for Planning**

Date: 25/7/2024