

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal:** Crowlands Wind Energy Facility

**Proponent:** Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd

**Description of Project:**

A wind energy facility of up to 165 MW, containing up to 80 generators with a 80 m hub height and 45 m blade. Buildings and works required for the facility include access tracks, underground cabling, a substation and control building.

The 775 ha development envelope for the project is located near Crowlands in Pyrenees Shire, about 30 km north east of Ararat. It comprises predominantly cleared agricultural land, used mostly for sheep grazing, with some remnant vegetation. The terrain is characterised by exposed rocky ridgelines overlooking creeks and drainage lines.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is not required for the proposed Crowlands Wind Energy Facility.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The project site mostly consists of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid significant adverse effects on both indigenous flora and Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- The project is unlikely to give rise to environmental effects of regional or state significance.
- Potential effects on landscape values and residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only, with some potential for mitigation.

**Date of Decision:** 22 March 2007