

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Ararat Wind Farm

**Proponent:** RES Australia Pty Ltd

**Description of Project:**

RES Australia Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind farm, comprising up to 50 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure in western Victoria. The wind farm would be developed on two sites approximately 3 km apart about 7 km north-east of Ararat, with one site about 1.1 km north of the Pyrenees Highway and the other 550 m south of the highway.

**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 3 December 2007.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The proposed wind farm would be located on mostly cleared agricultural land and there is considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid adverse effects.
- The preliminary ecological investigations indicate that the proposed Ararat Wind Farm is unlikely to have a significant effect on remnant native vegetation or flora and fauna species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. There are opportunities for identifying measures to avoid or minimise potential effects on fauna through a bird utilisation survey and targeted surveys for listed fauna species.
- Potential effects on 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:** 9 January 2008