

**Attachment 2**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:**               **The Sisters Wind Farm**

**Proponent:**                       **The Sisters Wind Farm Pty Ltd**

**Description of Project:**

The project is proposed on private agricultural land located at 'The Sisters', approximately 14km north west of Terang in the Moyne Shire, south west Victoria. The Sisters is a group of irregular shaped landforms associated with a small volcanic crater.

The wind farm would comprise a maximum of up to 13 generators with an overall height of between 125 and 135m to the blade tip. Each generator would have a capacity of between 2 and 3.3 megawatts (MW) each, with a maximum wind farm output of 29.99 MW.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for The Sisters Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 10 October 2008.

**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 adverse effects on indigenous flora and fauna and Aboriginal cultural heritage, if either listed flora and fauna species or significant Aboriginal places are identified in detailed site investigations;
- The preliminary ecological investigations indicate that the risks to threatened fauna are likely to be low because of the limited suitable habitat on the wind farm site. There are opportunities for identifying measures to further avoid or minimise potential effects on fauna through a bird utilisation survey and targeted surveys for significant fauna;
- Potential effects on residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only, with some potential for mitigation; and
- The potential environmental effects of the project, including on the geomorphological values of 'The Sisters', can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Date of Decision:**       **10 DEC 2008**