

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Ararat Wind Farm

Proponent: RES Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

RES Australia Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind energy facility including up to 76 turbines and associated infrastructure at a location 7 kilometres northeast of Ararat. The turbines are to be constructed on two distinct sites located approximately 1.1 kilometres north, and 500 metres south, of the Pyrenees Highway. The proposed wind energy facility is to be within the Northern Grampians Shire and the Ararat Rural City.

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 4 September 2008.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project location 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 Aboriginal cultural heritage, if either listed species or significant heritage places are identified in detailed site investigations.
- 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 NOV 2008