

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Stockyard Hill Wind Farm**

Proponent: **Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd**

Description of Project:

A wind farm comprising 282 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure located between Beaufort and Skipton in south-west Victoria.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 8 July 2008, subject to the following conditions:

- A report is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning on the potential effects of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm on the Victorian Brolga population and offsetting measures needed to address adverse effects. The report is to use a population viability analysis approach or other suitable methodology endorsed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DSE or delegate.
- A report is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning on the potential effects of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm on the cultural heritage significance of Mawallok. This report is to take into account the statement of cultural heritage significance prepared by Heritage Victoria and identified by Victorian Heritage Number PROV HO563 and must be prepared to the satisfaction of Heritage Victoria.
- A report identifying corridor options for an extension of the national electricity grid to the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm site, and assessing sensitivities with respect to landscape and fauna values, including potential impacts on Brolga, is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Community Development, or delegate, and submitted to the Minister for Planning.

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 indigenous flora, if listed species are identified in detailed site investigations.
- The preliminary ecological investigations indicate that there are unlikely to be significant effects on threatened fauna. There are opportunities for avoiding or minimising potential effects on fauna on the basis of targeted surveys for significant fauna. Comprehensive studies of the local and regional Brolga population have

informed the project design in terms of providing set backs from breeding sites, flocking sites and migration corridors.

- There is scope to modify the wind farm design if significant effects on heritage values are identified in more detailed investigations.
- Potential effects on landscape values and residential amenity are unlikely to be of more than local significance, 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: 29 SEP 2008