



Department of  
**Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources**

Mr David Griffin  
CEO  
Renewable Power Ventures Pty Ltd  
Level 38, 2 Park Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Henry Deane Building  
20 Lee Street Sydney NSW  
GPO Box 3927 Sydney NSW 2001  
T 02 9762 8000  
www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au

Major Infrastructure Assessment  
Level 4  
Telephone: 02 9762 8151  
Facsimile: 02 9762 8707  
Email:  
rebecca.newman@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

Our Ref: S04/01018 Pt 1  
Your Ref:

Dear Mr Griffin

**Proposed 200 MW Capital Wind Farm Project, near Tarago (Southern Tablelands)**

I refer to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2004, seeking the Director-General's requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above development proposal.

It is understood that the proposal will consist of the following:

- 100 - 133 wind turbine generators (installed capacity of 200 MW, producing approximately 710 GW per annum);
- erection of each turbine generator on approximately 80m high towers with three blades of 41 to 50m length;
- construction of a sub-station on site within 100m of the existing TransGrid 330kV transmission line that traverses the southern boundary of the project area;
- underground cabling;
- a network of service roads to provide access to each wind turbine generator.

It is also understood that the proposed transmission line that will connect the substation to TransGrid's network will not form part of the development application. Nevertheless, sufficient information should be included in the EIS to demonstrate its likely impacts.

Attachment No. 1 outlines the statutory matters that must be included in any EIS under clauses 71 and 72 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (the Regulation).

Under clause 73(1) of the Regulation, the Director General requires the EIS to address the issues listed below. You should note however, that clause 73(6) of the Regulation requires you to re-consult the Director General in relation to the preparation of the EIS if the development application is not made within two years of the date of this letter.

**General Considerations**

- Consideration of relevant Acts, policies and strategies including the:
  - State Environmental Planning Policy No 58 – Protecting Sydney's Water Supply (noting, in particular, the matters specified in clauses 11(3) and 11(4) of the SEPP);
  - State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection;
  - Sydney Catchment Authority's draft publication entitled *Sustaining the Catchments – The Regional Plan for the drinking water catchments of Sydney and adjacent regional centres*;
  - Warragamba Catchment Blueprint;
  - NSW Heritage Office's publication entitled *Wind Farms & Heritage Policy (draft)*;
  - Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust's draft issues paper entitled *Wind Farms and Landscape Values*;
  - Australian Greenhouse Office and Australian Wind Energy Association's publication entitled *Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Energy Projects in Australia*;
  - CASA's Draft Advisory Circular AC 139 -18 (0), June 2004 *Obstacle Marking and Lighting of Wind Farms*;
  - Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act;
  - Water Management Act;
  - Native Vegetation Conservation Act;
  - Mulwaree LEP 1995;



- Yarrowluma LEP 2002; and
- Tallaganda LEP 1991.
- A water cycle management study prepared in respect of the development that addresses the following matters:
  - pre-development and post-development run off volumes and pollutant loads from the site of the proposed development;
  - the assessment of the proposed development against the matters for consideration specified in clause 10 of SEPP 58;
  - the impacts of the development on receiving waters;
  - the water cycle management strategies and best management practices proposed to be employed to address those impacts; and
  - the arrangements to be made for the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the water cycle management system.
- Relationship and consistency with relevant NSW and Commonwealth policies on energy management and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Relationship to the electricity grid, ie. distance to the grid, capacity of the grid to accept power, opportunities to share infrastructure.
- Project staging.

#### Specific Issues

- Consideration of those matters raised by participants at the Planning Focus Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2004 and recorded in the Notes to that meeting.
- Site layout and maps showing scale of development and relationship to any existing development and known current development proposals (eg wind farms) in the surrounding area.
- Justification for locating the proposal on this site.
- An assessment of the:
  - noise impacts undertaken in accordance with the attached guideline *Wind Farms – Environmental Noise Guidelines*, South Australian Environment Protection Authority (February 2003), and "infrasound";
  - visual impacts associated with the proposal (both turbines and along grid connection route) and a discussion of proposed mitigation measures (Note: The visual impact assessment should be illustrated with photomontages, taken from strategic vantage points (both public and private), of the turbine installations and transmission lines, and any structures associated with the connection to the transmission line, and those elements of the proposal that may have a cumulative visual impact in this locality taking into account any adjacent wind farm proposals). Blade "flicker" and blade "glint" should be addressed as part of the assessment;
  - site suitability and capability for the proposal with particular regard to soil erosion potential;
  - traffic and access considerations noting in particular the proposed routes and any alterations to tracks and roads that may be required to transport heavy, wide and long loads eg. towers, turbines, and blades;
  - potential impacts from the turbines and transmission lines on birds and bats from strikes;
  - potential impacts from the turbines and transmission lines on bird and bat flight movement and behaviour that could affect their survival. This should include consideration of any bird movement between Lake George and Lake Bathurst;
  - measures proposed to be adopted to offset impacts resulting from construction activities, eg. earthworks, vegetation clearing, track construction etc;
  - any electric and magnetic field impacts on health, and means of minimising such. A demonstration of compliance with "prudent avoidance principles" should be provided;
  - any other potential health effects;
  - any lighting requirements particularly those required for aviation safety and security of the site;
  - impacts on air navigation;
  - electromagnetic interference;
  - any risk/hazard issues, including bushfire risk/management and chemical use;
  - direct and indirect property and land use impacts. Details should be provided for any land which may require acquisition or establishment of an easement. Also, consideration must be given to any on-



site and off-site impacts which would restrict current and future land uses. The means of overcoming (eg. buffers) or compensating for such restrictions should be identified; and

- benefits to local area.
- Identification and discussion of any indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage issues.
- Outline of Environmental Management Plans with reference to construction and operation stages. Monitoring, auditing, and reporting procedures should also be described.
- An assessment of impacts to flora and fauna, particularly critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities, and their habitats listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the *Fisheries Management Act 1997* (FM Act)<sup>1</sup>. The assessment should involve the following steps:
  - i) conduct baseline surveys, and consult relevant databases and listings by scientific committees established under the TSC Act and FM Act;
  - ii) identify any applicable *assessment guidelines* issued and in force under Section 94A of the TSC Act or, subject to Section 5C of the EP&A Act, and Section 220ZZA of the FM Act;<sup>2</sup>
  - iii) describe the types and condition of habitats in, and adjacent to, the land to be affected by the proposal;
  - iv) prepare a list of species and vegetation communities that were recorded in the study area and adjacent areas. Also identify which threatened species, populations and ecological communities are likely to occur based on the presence of suitable habitat and/or previous sightings;
  - v) apply an Assessment of Significance (under section 5A of the EP&A Act) to each threatened species, population or ecological community, or their habitats, that may be affected by the proposal. The EIS must justify any decision to not apply this test to all of the threatened species, populations or ecological communities identified in step iv);
  - vi) prepare a Species Impact Statement for any critical habitats and threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats that are likely to be significantly affected by the proposal (note: A SIS must be prepared in accordance with any requirements of the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation and/or Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries).

The Department's draft EIA Guidelines entitled *NSW Wind Energy* (June 2002) and *Network Electricity Systems and Related Facilities* should also be consulted in the preparation of the EIS (see attachments).

### Integrated Development

Development Applications (DAs) are "integrated development" where certain licences or approvals are required from bodies other than the consent authority. You have identified the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) as integrated approval bodies. The DEC's advice is attached.

If further integrated approvals are identified before the Development Application is lodged, you must consult with the relevant agencies to identify their requirements for the EIS. You should particularly consider whether the Department of Lands may be an integrated approval body (road works affecting a Crown Road – refer to the Roads Act 1993). Based on your advice, the Councils would also be integrated approval bodies should the proposal be State Significant Development.

You must ensure that when you lodge your Development Application and supporting documentation with the consent authorities that you include:

- sufficient copies for each of the approval bodies; and
- a cheque, for a fee of \$250, made payable to each of the agencies from whom you need an integrated approval.

<sup>1</sup> Environmentally sound practice requires the proposal to be modified, if possible, to avoid a significant effect on threatened species, populations, and ecological communities or their habitats.

<sup>2</sup> On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2002 the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment Act 2002* was assented to. The provisions of the Act will commence progressively. The reference to *assessment guidelines* reflects the provisions of the new Act.



### Concurrence

The concurrence of the Chief Executive of the Sydney Catchment Authority will be required unless the proposal is made State Significant Development.

### Consultation

You should consult with the Eastern Capital City Regional Council and Greater Argyle City Council and take into account any comments these councils may have in the preparation of the EIS. The EIS should also address other issues that emerge from consultations with relevant local, State and Commonwealth government authorities, service providers and community groups including:

- Commonwealth Department of Environment & Heritage;
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority;
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (formerly Department of Land and Water Conservation);
- Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries and Agriculture);
- Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environment Protection Authority);
- Department of Utilities, Energy and Sustainability;
- Department of Lands;
- Roads and Traffic Authority;
- Rail Corporation;
- Sydney Catchment Authority
- NSW Health (Environmental Health Branch) – regarding magnetic fields.
- TransGrid;
- Country Energy;
- Relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils;
- Ngunawal and Pejar tribal representatives;
- Pejar Landcare; and
- Relevant Catchment Management Authorities

Under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage is required for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance<sup>3</sup>, except in circumstances which are set out in the EPBC Act. Approval from the Commonwealth is in addition to any approvals under NSW legislation.

Please contact Rebecca Newman (telephone 02 9762 8151) should you have any queries about this matter.

Yours sincerely

*Deille Osborne*

f Mark Hather 24/9/04  
Director  
Major Infrastructure Assessment  
As Delegate for the Director General

<sup>3</sup> Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act are:

- i) World Heritage properties;
- ii) RAMSAR wetlands;
- iii) threatened species or ecological communities listed in the EPBC Act;
- iv) migratory species listed in the EPBC Act;
- v) the environment in a Commonwealth marine area;
- vi) nuclear actions; and
- vii) national heritage places.