



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

27 July 2012

Our Ref: D12/6930



Mr Toby Philp
Acting Manager, Energy Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: James Archdale

Environmental Assessment for Bodangora Wind Farm (MP 10- 0157)

Dear Mr Archdale,

The Western NSW Local Health Network is pleased to have the opportunity to provide comment on the Environmental Assessment report for the Bodangora Wind Farm (Project Application No. MP10-0157).

Please find attached a copy of the Western NSW Local Health Network submission. I hope this will be of assistance to you in assessing the application.

Should you have any questions related to this submission please contact me on (02) 6339 5600 or via email therese.jones@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au , or Mr Gerard van Yzendoorn, Acting Co-ordinator Environmental Health Services on (02) 63395183 or via email gerard.vanyzendoorn@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au .

Yours sincerely

Dr Thérèse Jones
Director, Population Health



Population Health Unit

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Our Ref: D12/6932

Bodangora Wind Farm – Submission on Environmental Assessment

Background

The proposed Bodangora Wind farm is located in central western NSW, approximately 15 kilometers north-east of Wellington and 40 kilometers south-east of the regional centre of Dubbo. It is wholly within the local government area of Wellington Shire. The land on which the proposed Bodangora Wind Farm and ancillary facilities will be located includes 8 privately owned properties which are predominantly cleared pastoral lands used for sheep and cattle grazing. The proposed array is based on up to 33 turbine sites being developed.

Noise and Shadow Flicker

Noise has been assessed as emanating from construction and operation of completed turbines. This falls under the control of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Ten residences are located within two kilometers of wind turbines, all of these residences belong to people who have leased land to the wind farm. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is the Australian Government's key agency for supporting Health and Medical Research, developing health advice and guidelines for the community. In June 2010 the NHMRC conducted a rapid review of the evidence relating to adverse health impacts caused by wind turbines and concluded that *"There are no direct pathological effects from wind farms and that any potential impact on humans can be minimised by following existing planning guidelines"*. The NSW Ministry of Health supports this statement.

The NHMRC have conducted a scientific forum in June 2011 and are currently undertaking a systematic comprehensive review of evidence around wind farms and health impacts. The aim of this review is to identify any gaps in the evidence and identify any recommendations for further research. The NSW Ministry of Health is supportive of this process and will update its policy

should this review bring any new evidence to light. The NSW Ministry of Health will continue to seek NHMRC's guidance on health impacts of wind farms

Air Quality

Air quality is potentially affected by dust and pollution caused by the construction phase of the wind turbines. Any dust generation during construction phase will be controlled by watering the access roads and building sites. The operation of the wind turbines creates no emissions and therefore has no health impact. Again this is an issue that is controlled by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Water Resources

The health concern regarding water is the potential for pollution of the area's water supply. Water will be required for the construction phase predominantly for dust suppression and for the facilities that form part of the wind farm. Wind farm activity is not expected to impact on the quality of water supplies.

Blayney Wind Farm

Blayney Wind Farm (also in the Central West of NSW) has been operating for a number of years. To date the NSW Ministry of Health has not received any complaints regarding its operation.