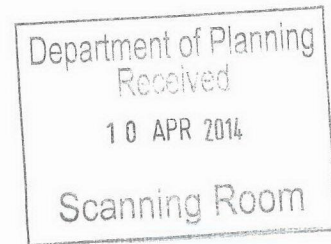




V14/1779

Ms Diane Sarkies  
Senior Planner, Energy  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Ms Sarkies

Thank you for your letter of invitation to the Department dated 17 March 2014 to make a submission on the Modification Request by Glen Innes Windpower Pty Ltd to modify the approval for the Glen Innes Wind Farm.

This submission is a coordinated response from the Energy Branch.

There are no issues of concern raised in response to the modification request. It is noted that the proposed modification would allow consideration of currently available improved efficiency turbines. The proposed use of more efficient turbines suitable for the wind conditions for the site is supported. It is also noted that the Environmental Assessment for the modification request has considered the requirements of the *Draft NSW Planning Guidelines Wind Farms 2011*, and that the modification request is consistent with these Guidelines.

The NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan supports the achievement of the national target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. To successfully grow renewable energy generation in NSW the Government has recognised the need to address the challenges of the higher cost of renewable energy, the current barriers to investment and community concerns. Current forecasts show wind energy will deliver the bulk of new renewable generation up to 2020 – being one the most commercially ready and cost-effective technologies that can be deployed on a large scale.

The Plan details three goals to most efficiently grow renewable energy generation in NSW - attract renewable energy investment and projects, build community support for renewable energy, and attract and grow expertise in renewable energy technology.

In addition, the proposal is also supported for its capacity to bring capital investment and create new jobs for NSW. It is noted that the estimated capital investment value of the project is \$150 million and that the project would create 40 FTE construction jobs and 4 FTE operational jobs.

The Energy Branch, as part of the Trade and Investment cluster is also continuing to work with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to influence the current planning reforms to assist in achieving the above objectives.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Ms Mona Sahore, Manager Energy Projects, Division of Resources and Energy, to assist you. Ms Sahore may be contacted at the Department's Sydney Office on telephone (02) 8281 7726.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Lewis** 3/4/14  
**Executive Director**