

## **Flyers Creek Wind Farm – Submission on Environmental Assessment**

### **Background**

The proposed Flyers Creek Wind farm is located in central western NSW, approximately 20 kilometers south of the regional centre of Orange and about 200 kilometres west of Sydney. It is wholly within the local government area of Blayney Shire. The land on which the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm and ancillary facilities will be located on includes 25 privately owned properties which are predominantly cleared pastoral lands used for sheep and cattle grazing. The proposed array is based on up to 44 turbine sites being developed.

The area is approximately 8 kilometres to the north-west of the existing Blayney wind farm which is comprised of 15 wind turbines. Acadia Mine is about five kilometres north-west of the area.

### **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 Office of Environment and Heritage.

Seven residences are located within one kilometer 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 Office of Environment and Heritage.

### **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 has been operating for a number of years in close proximity to the proposed development. To date the NSW Ministry of Health has not received any complaints regarding the operation.