

Flyers Creek

WIND FARM

Environmental Assessment

APPENDIX A

- A1 - Major projects declaration
- A2 - Director General Requirements
- A3 - Updated Director General Requirements
- A4 - Critical Infrastructure declaration





NSW GOVERNMENT

Department of Planning

24 November 2008

Contact: Keiran Thomas

Phone: 02 9228 6325

Fax: 02 9228 6355

Email: keiran.p.thomas@planning.nsw.gov.au

Mr Jeff Bembrick
Senior Environmental Consultant
Connell Wagner Pty Ltd
PO Box 538
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089

Dear Mr Bembrick

Proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm, Blayney Local Government Area

Please be advised that on 24 October 2008, the Director-General of the Department of Planning, under delegation from the Minister for Planning, formed the opinion under clause 6 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* (Major Project SEPP) that the abovementioned project is development of a kind that is described in Schedule 1 of the Major Project SEPP.

The project is therefore declared to be a Major Project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and will be subject to determination by the Minister for Planning. I have enclosed a copy of the record of the Director-General's opinion for your information and reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the above details should you wish to discuss or clarify this matter.

Yours sincerely

Keiran Thomas
Environmental Planning Officer
Major Infrastructure Assessments



NSW GOVERNMENT

Department of Planning

**Record of Minister's opinion for the purposes of Clause 6(1) of the State
Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005**

I, the Director-General of the Department of Planning, as delegate of the Minister for Planning under delegation executed on 26th February, 2007, have formed the opinion that the development described in the Schedule below, is development of a kind that is described in Schedule 1, Group 8, clause 24 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* namely development for the purpose of a facility for the generation of electricity with a capital investment value of more than \$30 million. It is therefore declared to be a project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* applies for the purpose of section 75B of that Act.

Schedule

A proposal by Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, located within the Blayney local government area, as generally described in the letter by Connell Wagner Pty Ltd to the Department of Planning dated 17 October 2008.

SHaddad

Sam Haddad
Director-General
Department of Planning

Date: 24/10/2008.



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Contact: Keiran Thomas
Phone: (02) 9228 6325
Fax: (02) 9228 6366
Email: keiran.p.thomas@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: S08/01659

Mr Adrian Rizza
Director
Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Level 51 Rialto South Tower
525 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Rizza

Proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm, Blayney Local Government Area (Application Reference: 08_0252)

The Department has received your major project application for the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm project.

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the project. These requirements have been prepared following the Planning Focus Meeting held on 19 November 2008 and in consultation with the relevant government agencies. I have also enclosed a list of relevant guidelines that you may wish to refer to during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

It should be noted that the Director-General's requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the Proponent seeking approval for the project.

I would appreciate it if you could contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department may consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the Proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the Proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

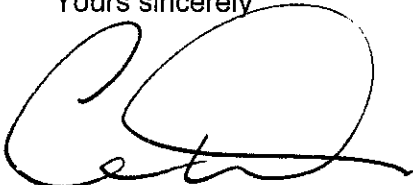
If your project includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation and it is your responsibility to contact the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts to determine if an

approval under the EPBC Act is required for your project (6274 1111 or <http://www.environment.gov.au>).

Please note that the Commonwealth Government has accredited the NSW environmental assessment process for assessing impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance. As a result, if it is determined that an approval is required under the EPBC Act, please contact the Department immediately as supplementary Director-General's requirements will need to be issued.

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Mr Keiran Thomas, Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6325 or via email (keiran.p.thomas@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Wilson', written over a large, faint circular stamp.

19.11.08

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
Major Project Assessments
as delegate of the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Project	Construction and operation of an approximately 100 megawatt wind farm including up to 40 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Site	Approximately 20 kilometres south of Orange in the Blayney local government area.
Proponent	Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	19 January 2009
Date of Expiration	19 January 2011
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → construction, operation and decommissioning details; → the location and dimensions of all project components including the wind turbines (including map coordinates and AHD heights), any above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, electrical sub stations, underground cabling between turbines, on site control room and equipment storage, temporary concrete batching plant(s), construction compounds and access roads; → a timeline identifying the proposed construction and operation of the project components, their envisaged lifespan and arrangements for decommissioning and staging; and → if the transmission line does not form part of the project, an overview of the approvals process for the above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, including timing and responsibilities and how this process would fit in with the planning and development of the project. • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions including the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; • an assessment of the key issues outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant). If the transmission line does not form part of the project, sufficient information on the siting and likely impacts of the transmission line must still be presented to demonstrate that the cumulative impacts of the development as a whole is acceptable and justified; • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project. If the transmission line does not form part of the project, a detailed description of how issues which would have cumulative impacts (e.g. biodiversity offsets and visual) would be managed including timing and responsibilities; • a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project; the suitability of the site; and the public interest; and • certification by the author of the EA that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	<p>The EA must include assessment of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Justification - the EA must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → include a strategic assessment of the need, scale, scope and location for the project in relation to predicted electricity demand, predicted transmission constraints and the strategic direction of the region and the State in relation to electricity supply, demand and electricity generation technologies; → include a clear demonstration of quantified and substantiated greenhouse gas benefits, taking into consideration sources of electricity that could realistically be replaced and the extent of their replacement; and → include an analysis of the suitability of the project with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including rural

residential development, land of significant scenic or visual value, land of high agricultural value, mineral reserves and conservation areas), taking into account local and strategic land use objectives; and

- describe alternatives considered (location and/ or design) and provide justification for the preferred project demonstrating its benefits on a local and strategic scale and how it achieves stated objectives.

- **Visual Impacts** - the EA must:

- provide a comprehensive assessment of the landscape character and values and any scenic or significant vistas of the area potentially affected by the project. This should describe community and stakeholder values of the local and regional visual amenity and quality, and perceptions of the project based on surveys and consultation;
- assess the impact of shadow "flicker", blade "glint" and night lighting from the wind farm;
- identify the zone of visual influence (no less than 10 kilometres) and assess the visual impact of all project components on this landscape, including in the context of the visual influence of the existing Blayney Wind Farm;
- include photomontages of the project taken from potentially affected residences (including approved but not yet developed dwellings or subdivisions with residential rights), settlements and significant public view points, and provide a clear description of proposed visual amenity mitigation and management measures;
- provide an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed mitigation measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been implemented.

- **Noise Impacts** - the EA must:

- include a comprehensive noise assessment of all phases and components of the project including turbine operation, construction and traffic noise. The assessment must identify noise sensitive locations (including approved but not yet developed dwellings or subdivisions with residential rights), baseline conditions based on monitoring results, the levels and character of noise (e.g. tonality, impulsiveness etc) generated by noise sources, noise criteria, modelling assumptions and worst case and representative noise impacts.
- in relation to wind turbine operation, the EA must determine noise impacts under operating meteorological conditions (i.e. wind speeds from cut in to rated power), which may include impacts under meteorological conditions that exacerbate impacts. The probability of such occurrences must be quantified;
- if any noise agreements with residents are proposed for areas where noise criteria cannot be met, provide sufficient information to enable a clear understanding of what has been agreed and what criteria have been used to frame any such agreements;
- clearly outline the noise mitigation, monitoring and management measures that would be applied to the project. This must include an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been incorporated;
- include contingency strategy that provides for additional noise attenuation should higher noise levels than those predicted result following commissioning and / or noise agreements with landowners not eventuate; and
- include an assessment of vibration impacts associated with the project.

The assessment must be undertaken consistent with the following guidelines (or as otherwise agreed with the DECC):

- Wind Turbines - the South Australian Environment Protection Authority's *Wind Farms - Environmental Noise Guidelines*, 2003;
- Site Establishment and Construction - *Environmental Noise Control Manual* (NSW EPA, 2004);
- Traffic Noise - *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise* (NSW EPA, 1999); and

→ Vibration – *Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline* (DECC, 2006).

- **Flora and Fauna** - the EA must:

- include an assessment of all project components (including the transmission easement through Canobolas State Forest) on flora and fauna and their habitat consistent with the *Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC, 2005), including details on the existing site conditions and quantity and likelihood of disturbance;
- The EA must specifically consider impacts to threatened species and communities listed under both State and Commonwealth legislation that have been recorded on the site and surrounding land, impacts to riparian and/ or instream habitat in the case of disturbance of waterways, and to biodiversity corridors. In addition, impact of the project on birds and bats from blade strikes, low air pressure zones at the blade tips, and alteration to movement patterns resulting from the turbines and transmission lines must be assessed, including demonstration of how the project has been sited to avoid and/ or minimise such impacts;
- details of how flora and fauna impacts would be managed during construction and operation including adaptive management and maintenance protocols; and
- measures to avoid, mitigate or offset impacts consistent with "improve or maintain" principles. Sufficient details must be provided to demonstrate the availability of viable and achievable options to offset the impacts of the project.

- **Water** – the EA must include an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on water supply, surface flows and groundwater, including:

- details of the site water demand for the life of the project, and the availability of supply to meet this demand;
- details of the impacts associated with construction on river crossings, adjacent water users, basic landholder rights and groundwater-dependent systems; and
- details of any proposed interception of groundwater during construction, including predicted dewatering volumes, drawdown zones, water quality standards and disposal methods.

- **Traffic and Transport** – the EA must assess the construction and operational traffic impacts of the project including:

- details of the nature of traffic generated, transport routes, traffic volumes and potential impacts on local and regional roads, bridges and intersections, including any proposed road upgrades and repairs; and
- details of site access roads including how these would connect to the existing road network and any operational maintenance or handover requirements.

- **Indigenous Heritage** - the EA must include an assessment of the potential impact of the project components on indigenous heritage values (archaeological and cultural). The EA must demonstrate effective consultation with indigenous stakeholders during the assessment and in developing mitigation options (including the final recommended measures) consistent with *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, July 2005).

- **Hazard/Risks**– the EA must include an assessment of the potential impacts on aviation safety considering nearby aerodromes and aircraft landing areas, defined air traffic routes and radar interference, bushfires, subsidence, communication systems and electric and magnetic fields.

- **General Environmental Risk Analysis** –notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project, proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an

	appropriately detailed impact assessment of the additional key environmental impact(s) must be included in the EA.
Consultation Requirements	<p>The Proponent must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blayney Shire Council; • Cabonne Shire Council; • Orange City Council; • Department of Environment and Climate Change; • Department of Water and Energy; • Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; • NSW Rural Fire Service; • Lachlan Catchment Management Authority; • Commonwealth Department of Defence; • Civil Aviation Safety Authority; • Airservices Australia; • Aerial Agricultural Society of Australia; • relevant utility providers; and • the local community and landowners. <p>The EA must clearly describe the consultation process and indicate the issues raised by stakeholders during consultation and how these matters have been addressed.</p>
Deemed refusal period	60 days

Relevant Guidelines - For Reference

General

Wind Energy Facilities draft Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (Planning NSW, June 2002)

Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Energy Projects in Australia (Auswind, 2006)

Visual

Wind Farms and Landscape Values: National Assessment Framework (Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust, June 2007)

Hazards

Civil Aviation Safety Authority's Advisory Circular AC 139-18(0) Obstacle Marking and Lighting of Wind Farms, July, 2007

Biodiversity

Cumulative Risk for Threatened and Migratory Species (Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage, March 2006)

Wind Farms and Birds: Interim Standards for Risk Assessment, (Auswind, July 2005)

Assessing the Impacts on Birds – Protocols and Data Set Standards (Australian Wind Energy Association)



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24 November 2008

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Mr Jeff Bembrick
Senior Environmental Consultant
Connell Wagner Pty Ltd
PO Box 538
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089

Dear Mr Bembrick

Proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm, Blayney Local Government Area

Please be advised that on 24 October 2008, the Director-General of the Department of Planning, under delegation from the Minister for Planning, formed the opinion under clause 6 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* (Major Project SEPP) that the abovementioned project is development of a kind that is described in Schedule 1 of the Major Project SEPP.

The project is therefore declared to be a Major Project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and will be subject to determination by the Minister for Planning. I have enclosed a copy of the record of the Director-General's opinion for your information and reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the above details should you wish to discuss or clarify this matter.

Yours sincerely

Keiran Thomas
Environmental Planning Officer
Major Infrastructure Assessments



NSW GOVERNMENT

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Schedule

A proposal by Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, located within the Blayney local government area, as generally described in the letter by Connell Wagner Pty Ltd to the Department of Planning dated 17 October 2008.

SHaddad

Sam Haddad —

**Director-General
Department of Planning**

Date: 24/10/2008.

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Project	Construction and operation of an approximately 100 megawatt wind farm including up to 40 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Site	Approximately 20 kilometres south of Orange in the Blayney local government area.
Proponent	Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	19 January 2009
Date of Expiration	19 April 2011
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → construction, operation and decommissioning details; → the location and dimensions of all project components including the wind turbines (including map coordinates and AHD heights), any above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, electrical sub stations, underground cabling between turbines, on site control room and equipment storage, temporary concrete batching plant(s), construction compounds and access roads; → a timeline identifying the proposed construction and operation of the project components, their envisaged lifespan and arrangements for decommissioning and staging; and → if the transmission line does not form part of the project, an overview of the approvals process for the above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, including timing and responsibilities and how this process would fit in with the planning and development of the project. • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions including the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; • an assessment of the key issues outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant). If the transmission line does not form part of the project, sufficient information on the siting and likely impacts of the transmission line must still be presented to demonstrate that the cumulative impacts of the development as a whole is acceptable and justified; • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project. If the transmission line does not form part of the project, a detailed description of how issues which would have cumulative impacts (e.g. biodiversity offsets and visual) would be managed including timing and responsibilities; • a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project; the suitability of the site; and the public interest; and • certification by the author of the EA that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	<p>The EA must include assessment of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Justification - the EA must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → include a strategic assessment of the need, scale, scope and location for the project in relation to predicted electricity demand, predicted transmission constraints and the strategic direction of the region and the State in relation to electricity supply, demand and electricity generation technologies; → include a clear demonstration of quantified and substantiated greenhouse gas benefits, taking into consideration sources of electricity that could realistically be replaced and the extent of their replacement. Reference should be made to the <i>Wind Farm Greenhouse Gas Savings Tool</i> developed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW); and

- include an analysis of the suitability of the project with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including rural residential development, land of significant scenic or visual value, land of high agricultural value, mineral reserves and conservation areas), taking into account local and strategic land use objectives; and
- describe alternatives considered (location and/ or design) and provide justification for the preferred project demonstrating its benefits on a local and strategic scale and how it achieves stated objectives.

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- include an assessment of vibration impacts associated with the project.

The assessment must be undertaken consistent with the following guidelines (or as otherwise agreed with the DECCW):

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- **Water** – the EA must include an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on water supply, surface flows and groundwater, including:

- details of the site water demand for the life of the project, and the availability of supply to meet this demand;
- details of the impacts associated with construction on river crossings, adjacent water users, basic landholder rights and groundwater-dependent systems; and
- details of any proposed interception of groundwater during construction, including predicted dewatering volumes, drawdown zones, water quality standards and disposal methods.

- **Traffic and Transport** – the EA must assess the construction and operational traffic impacts of the project including:

- details of the nature of traffic generated, transport routes, traffic volumes and potential impacts on local and regional roads, bridges and intersections, including any proposed road upgrades and repairs; and
- details of site access roads including how these would connect to the existing road network and any operational maintenance or handover requirements.

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- **Hazard/Risks**– the EA must include an assessment of the potential impacts on aviation safety considering nearby aerodromes and aircraft landing areas, defined air traffic routes and radar interference, bushfires, subsidence, communication systems and electric and magnetic fields.

- **General Environmental Risk Analysis** –notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project, proposed

	mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of the additional key environmental impact(s) must be included in the EA.
Consultation Requirements	<p>The Proponent must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blayney Shire Council; • Cabonne Shire Council; • Orange City Council; • Department of Environment and Climate Change; • Department of Water and Energy; • Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; • NSW Rural Fire Service; • Lachlan Catchment Management Authority; • Commonwealth Department of Defence; • Civil Aviation Safety Authority; • Airservices Australia; • Aerial Agricultural Society of Australia; • relevant utility providers; and • the local community and landowners. <p>The EA must clearly describe the consultation process and indicate the issues raised by stakeholders during consultation and how these matters have been addressed.</p>
Deemed refusal period	60 days

Relevant Guidelines - For Reference

General

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Visual

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Biodiversity

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Wind Farms and Birds: Interim Standards for Risk Assessment, (Auswind, July 2005)

Assessing the Impacts on Birds – Protocols and Data Set Standards (Australian Wind Energy Association)

Reference locations for response to Director Generals Requirements

Director Generals Requirements		Addressed
Section 75F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979		
Project entails	The construction and operation of an approximately 100 megawatt wind farm including up to 40 wind turbines	NA
Site	Approximately 20 kilometres south of Orange in the Blayney Local Government Area	NA
Date of issue	19 January 2009	NA
Date of Expiration	19 April 2011	NA
General Requirements		Various
The environmental Assessment must include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An executive summary 		Executive Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed description of the project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction, operation and decommissioning details The location and dimensions of all project components including the wind turbines (including map coordinates and AHD heights) any above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, electrical substations, underground cabling between turbines, on site control room and equipment storage, temporary concrete batching plant(s), construction compounds and access roads 		Chapter 3 Section 3.7 Figures 3.1 to 3.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A timeline identifying the proposed construction and operation of the project components, their envisaged lifespan and arrangements for decommissioning and staging 		Section 3.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the transmission line does not form part of the project, an overview of the approvals process for the above ground transmission connection to the existing transmission network, including timing and responsibilities and how this process would fit in with the planning and development of the project. 		Chapter 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of any relevant statutory provisions including the consistency of the project with the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> 		Chapter 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the key issues outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning (as relevant). If the transmission line does not form part of the project, sufficient information on the siting and likely impacts of the transmission line must still be presented to demonstrate that the cumulative impacts of the development as a whole is acceptable and justified 		Chapters 7 to 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project. If the transmission line does not form part of the project, a detailed description of how issues which would have cumulative impacts (eg biodiversity offsets and visual) would be managed including timing and responsibilities 		Chapter 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project; the suitability of the site; and the public interest 		Chapter 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification by the author of the EA that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading 		Certification Page

Director Generals Requirements	Addressed
Key Assessment Requirements	Various
The EA must include assessment of the following key issues	
Strategic Justification	Chapter 18
<p>The EA must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a strategic assessment of the need, scale, scope and location for the project in relation to predicted electricity demand, predicted transmission constraints and the strategic direction of the region and the State in relation to electricity supply, demand and electricity generation technologies • Include a clear demonstration of quantified and substantiated greenhouse gas benefits, taking into consideration sources of electricity that could realistically be replaced and the extent of their replacement. Reference should be made to the <i>Wind Farm Greenhouse Gas Savings Tool</i> developed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) • Include an analysis of the suitability of the project with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including rural residential development, land of significant scenic or visual value, land of high agricultural value, mineral reserves and conservation areas) taking into account local and strategic landuse objectives • Describe alternatives considered (location and/or design) and provide justification for the preferred project demonstrating its benefits on a local and strategic scale and how it achieves stated objectives 	Chapter 18
Visual Impacts	Chapter 9
<p>The EA must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a comprehensive assessment of the landscape character and values and any scenic or significant vistas of the area potentially affected by the project. This should describe community and stakeholder values of the local and regional visual amenity and quality and perceptions of the project based on surveys and consultation • Assess the impact of shadow “flicker”, blade “glint” and night lighting from the wind farm • Identify the zone of visual influence (no less than 10 kilometres) and assess the visual impact of all project components on this landscape, including in the context of the visual influence of the existing Blayne Wind Farm • Include photomontages of the project taken from potentially affected residences (including approved but not yet developed dwellings or subdivisions with residential rights) settlements and significant public view points and provide a clear description of proposed visual amenity mitigation and management measures • Provide an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed mitigation measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been implemented 	<p>Chapter 9 and Appendix C and D</p> <p>S9.4</p> <p>Sections 9.11. 9.12 and 9.13</p> <p>Sections 9.5.1 and Figure 9.9</p> <p>Section 9.7 and Appendix C Plates</p> <p>S9.14</p>
Noise Impacts	Chapter 12
<p>The EA must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a comprehensive noise assessment of all phases and components of the project including turbine operation, construction and traffic noise. The assessment must identify noise sensitive locations (including approved but not yet developed dwellings or subdivisions with residential rights) baseline conditions based on monitoring results, the levels and character of noise (eg tonality, impulsiveness etc) generated by noise sources, noise criteria, modelling assumptions and worst case and representative noise impacts 	<p>Chapter 12 and Appendix G</p> <p>Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8.3, 12.8.4, 12.10 and Appendix G Sections 6.2 and 7.2</p>

Director Generals Requirements	Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to wind turbine operation, the EA must determine noise impacts under operating meteorological conditions (ie wind speeds from cut in to rated power) which may include impacts under meteorological conditions that exacerbate impacts. The probability of such occurrences must be quantified 	Appendix Section 6.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any noise agreements with residents are proposed for areas where noise criteria cannot be met, provide sufficient information to enable a clear understanding of what has been agreed and what criteria have been used to frame any such agreements 	Section 12.8.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly outline the noise mitigation, monitoring and management measures that would be applied to the project. This must include an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been incorporated 	Section 12.11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include contingency strategy that provides for additional noise attenuation should higher noise levels than those predicted result following commissioning and/or noise agreements with landowners not eventuate 	Section 12.11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an assessment of vibration impacts associated with the project 	Appendix G
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment must be undertaken consistent with the following guidelines (or as otherwise agreed with the DECCW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind Turbines – the South Australian Environment Protection Authority's <i>Wind Farms – Environmental Noise Guidelines, 2003</i> Site Establishment and Construction – <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (NSW EPA, 2004) Traffic Noise – <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (NSW EPA, 1999) Vibration – <i>Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline</i> (DECCW, 2006) 	
Flora and Fauna	Chapter 10
<p>The EA must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an assessment of all project components (including the transmission easement through Canobolas State Forest) on flora and fauna and their habitat consistent with the <i>Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC, 2005) including details on the existing site conditions and quantity and likelihood of disturbance The EA must specifically consider impacts to threatened species and communities listed under both State and Commonwealth legislation that have been recorded on the site and surrounding land, impacts to riparian and/or instream habitat in the case of disturbance of waterways and to biodiversity corridors. In addition, impact of the project on birds and bats from blade strikes, low air pressure zones at the blade tips and alteration to movement patterns resulting from the turbines and transmission lines must be assessed, including demonstration of how the project has been sited to avoid and/or minimise such impacts Details of how flora impacts would be managed during construction and operation including adaptive management and maintenance protocols Measures to avoid, mitigate or offset impacts consistent with “improve or maintain” principles. Sufficient details must be provided to demonstrate the availability of viable and achievable options to offset the impacts of the project 	<p>Chapter 10 and Appendix D and E</p> <p>Appendix Section 4,5 and 7</p> <p>Section 10.5</p> <p>Appendix Section 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Sections 10.6.2 and 10.6.3</p> <p>Section 10.6</p>
Water	Chapter 7
<p>The EA must include an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on water supply, surface flows and groundwater, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of the site water demand for the life of the project and the availability of supply to meet this demand 	Section 7.6.7

Director Generals Requirements	Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of the impacts associated with construction on river crossings, adjacent water users, basic landholder rights and groundwater-dependent systems Details of any proposed interception of groundwater during construction, including predicted dewatering volumes, drawdown zones, water quality standards and disposal methods 	<p>Section 7.6.2 and 7.6.7</p> <p>Section 7.6.7</p>
Traffic and transport	Chapter 13
<p>The EA must assess the construction and operational traffic impacts of the project including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> details of the nature of traffic generated, transport routes, traffic volumes and potential impacts on local and regional roads, bridges and intersections, including any proposed road upgrades and repairs details of site access roads including how these would connect to the existing road network and any operational maintenance or handover requirements 	<p>Chapter 13</p> <p>Table 13.3, Section 13.3.2</p> <p>Section 13.5</p>
Indigenous Heritage	Chapter 11
<p>The EA must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of the potential impact of the project components on indigenous heritage values (archaeological and cultural). The EA must demonstrate effective consultation with indigenous stakeholders during the assessment and in developing mitigation options (including the final recommended measures) consistent with guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (SEC, July 2005) 	<p>Chapter 11 and Appendix F</p>
Hazard/Risks	Chapter 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> aviation safety considering nearby aerodromes and aircraft landing areas defined air traffic routes and radar interference bushfires subsidence communication systems and electric and magnetic field 	<p>Section 16.2</p> <p>Section 16.2</p> <p>Section 16.5</p> <p>Chapter 14, Appendix H</p> <p>Section 16.10</p>
General Environmental Risk Analysis	Chapter 8 and Various
<p>Notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project, proposed mitigation measures and potential significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of the additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 and covered in the various chapters, which identify the various environmental risk and provide mitigation measures to minimise the impact</p>

Director Generals Requirements	Addressed
Consultation requirements	Chapter 6
<p>The Proponent must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blayney Shire Council • Cabonne Shire Council • Orange City Council • Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) • Department of Water and Energy • Department of Primary Industries • NSW Road and Traffic Authority • NSW Rural Fire Service • Lachlan Catchment Management Authority • Commonwealth Department of Defence • Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) • Airservices Australia • Aerial Agricultural Society of Australia • Relevant utility providers and • the local community and landowners. <p>The EA must clearly describe the consultation process and indicate the issues raised by stakeholders during consultation and how these matters have been addressed.</p>	<p>Chapter 6 and Appendix B</p>
Deemed Refusal Period	
60 days	

Department of Planning

DECLARATION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNDER SECTION 75C OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

I, the Minister for Planning, having formed the opinion that the category of development referred to in Schedule 1 is essential for the State for economic reasons, and for social reasons, and for environmental reasons, declare projects within that category to be critical infrastructure projects under Section 75C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Sydney, 11 November 2009.

The Hon KRISTINA KENEALLY, M.P.,
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

SCHEDULE 1

Development for the purpose of a facility for the generation of electricity derived from renewable fuel sources (that is, wind energy, solar energy, geothermal energy, hydro energy, wave energy and bio energy), being development that:

- (a) is the subject of an application lodged pursuant to section 75E or section 75M of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 lodged after the date of this declaration; and
- (b) is the subject of an application that proposes a development with a capacity to generate at least 30 megawatts.

DECLARATION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNDER SECTION 75C OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

I, the Minister for Planning, having formed the opinion that the projects referred to in Schedule 1 are essential for the State for economic reasons, and for social reasons, and for environmental reasons, declare the projects within Schedule 1 to be critical infrastructure projects under Section 75C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Sydney, 11 November 2009.

The Hon KRISTINA KENEALLY, M.P.,
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

SCHEDULE 1

The following renewable energy projects, being development for the purpose of wind farms, the subject of a project application lodged pursuant to section 75E or section 75M of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979:

- (a) Yass Wind Farm (Application Number MP08_0246), and
- (b) Sapphire Wind Farm (Application Number MP09_0093), and
- (c) Flyers Creek Wind Farm (Application Number MP08_0252), and
- (d) Ben Lomond Wind Farm (Application Number MP08_0012), and
- (e) Boco Rock Wind Farm (Application Number MP09_0103).

