

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Darlington Wind Farm**

Proponent: **TME Australia Pty Ltd**

Description of Project:

A wind farm of up to 150 turbines with a maximum power output of up to 450 MW located on both sides of the Hamilton Highway about 5 km west of Darlington.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Darlington Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 23 November 2007, subject to the following condition:

Targeted surveys of the movements and behaviour of Brolgas in the vicinity of the Darlington Wind Farm site during the breeding, migration and flocking seasons for the species are to be undertaken and documented to the satisfaction of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, prior to any statutory decision whether or not to approve the wind farm proposal.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project site mostly consists of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid adverse effects on indigenous flora and Aboriginal cultural heritage, if either listed species or significant heritage places are identified in detailed site investigations.
- The preliminary ecological investigations indicate that there are unlikely to be significant effects on threatened fauna, other than the Brolga. There are opportunities for avoiding or minimising potential effects on fauna on the basis of a bird utilisation survey and targeted surveys for significant fauna.
- Although there is uncertainty about the potential risk to the Brolga because of the proximity of the Lake Barnie Bolac flocking site, there are opportunities to provide set backs for turbines based on the findings of targeted surveys during the breeding, migration and flocking seasons.
- Potential effects on landscape values and residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only, with some potential for mitigation.
- The potential environmental effects of the project can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, subject to further investigation of risks to Brolgas in the area.

Date of Decision: 9 January 2008