

**For Public Notice via Internet****REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*****Title of Proposal:** Kentbruck Green Power Hub**Proponent:** Neoen**Description of Project:**

The Kentbruck Green Power Hub is a proposed 900-megawatt (MW) wind energy and battery storage facility, located 30 kilometres north west of Portland and approximately 3 kilometres east of Nelson, within the Glenelg Shire Council, Victoria.

It covers approximately 7,500 hectares and is proposed to include 157 turbines, to be connected to the electricity grid via either a 32 kilometres or 45 kilometres of underground and/or overhead electricity transmission line. The project may include the extraction of onsite limestone for use in roads construction, however this is yet to be determined.

Additional permanent infrastructure associated with the project includes: the upgrade of public roads and intersection; internal access tracks up to 10 meters wide; 16 permanent meteorological monitoring masts; up to 8 internal power collection stations; underground and overhead powerlines; a terminal substation; operations building (including car parking) and a battery storage facility of undetermined battery technology (up to 1000MW hours of storage). Temporary infrastructure associated with construction will include up to 3 concrete batching plants, hard stand and laydown areas approximately 120 meters by 50 meters, one main construction compound (with site offices, car parking storage, amenities and a workshop) and up to six ancillary construction compounds.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Kentbruck Green Power Hub, as described in the referral accepted on 24 July 2019.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The proposal has the potential for a range of significant effects that require assessment. In particular the project as proposed could have significant effects on:
  - i. Threatened fauna listed under both the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), including southern bent-wing bat, red-tailed black cockatoo, orange-bellied parrot, as well as migratory shorebirds.
  - ii. Threatened flora and ecological communities listed under both the FFG and EPBC Act.
  - iii. Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
  - iv. Landscape values.
  - v. Effects on surface water and groundwater and related beneficial uses, including risks to wetlands such as Long Swamp as well as the Glenelg and Discover Bay Ramsar Site.

- There are other potential effects, including associated with potential acid sulphate soils, the local community and amenity that also warrant examination.
- Assessment of potentially significant effects is necessary to ensure their extent, related uncertainties and acceptability are sufficiently investigated. This includes examining the scope for further avoidance and minimisation of effects via feasible siting/layout, design and operational alternatives for key components of the proposal, as well as evaluating their effectiveness in achieving acceptable residual environmental risks.
- An EES would enable a single integrated, rigorous and transparent process for consideration of the proposal's environmental effects and risks, including their acceptability, which would inform relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Water Act 1989*.

**Date of Decision: 25/08/2019**