

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Sidonia Hills Wind Farm**

Proponent: **Roaring 40s Renewable Energy Pty Ltd**

Description of Project:

Roaring 40s Renewable Energy Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind farm comprising up to 34 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure. The site straddles Sidonia Road approximately 10 km north east of Kyneton.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Sidonia Hills Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 15 January 2008.

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 the risks to threatened fauna are likely to be low because of the limited suitable habitat on the wind farm site. There are opportunities for identifying measures to avoid or minimise potential effects on fauna through targeted surveys for significant fauna.
- Potential effects on landscape values and residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only.
- The potential environmental effects of the project can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Date of Decision: 25 March 2008