

Attachment 1

DECISION ON PROJECT

Decision under section 8B(3)(a) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*

**Darlington Wind Farm
(Referral Number 2022-R07)**

Assessment though an environment effects statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* **is required** for the reasons set out in the attached Notice of Reasons for Decision.

Procedures and requirements under section 8B(5) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*

The procedures and requirements applying to the EES, in accordance with both section 8B(5) of the Act and the *Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (Ministerial Guidelines), are as follows:

- (i) The EES is to document investigations of potential environmental effects of the proposed project, including the feasibility of associated environmental mitigation and management measures, in particular for:
 - a. potential effects on biodiversity and ecological values including native vegetation, listed flora, fauna and communities through loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat, collision with turbines, or other ecological effects;
 - b. potential effects on water environments and related beneficial uses, including as a result of changes to stream flows and discharge of sediment;
 - c. effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values;
 - d. effects on historic heritage values;
 - e. effects on the socioeconomic environment, at local and regional scales, including on traffic, agriculture and other direct and indirect effects; and
 - f. potential effects on geoheritage; and
 - g. cumulative effects of the project, particularly on biodiversity, ecology, social and landscape values, given the proximity to other proposed, approved and operating windfarms
- (ii) The matters to be investigated and documented in the EES will be set out more fully in scoping requirements. Draft scoping requirements will be exhibited for 15 business days, before final scoping requirements are issued by the Minister for Planning.
- (iii) The proponent is to prepare and submit to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) a draft EES study program to inform the preparation of scoping requirements.
- (iv) The level of detail of investigation for the EES studies should be consistent with the approach set out in the scoping requirements and be adequate to inform an assessment of the significance and acceptability of its potential environmental effects, in the context of the Ministerial Guidelines.
- (v) DELWP will convene an inter-agency technical reference group (TRG) to advise DELWP and the proponent on the scoping requirements, the design and adequacy of the EES studies, and coordination with statutory approval processes.

- (vi) The proponent is to prepare and implement an EES Consultation Plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES, having regard to advice from DELWP and the TRG.
- (vii) The proponent is also to prepare and submit to DELWP its proposed schedule for the completion of studies, preparation and exhibition of the EES, following confirmation of the scoping requirements. This schedule is intended to facilitate the alignment of the proponent's and DELWP's timeframes, including for TRG review of technical studies.
- (viii) The proponent is to apply appropriate peer review and quality management procedures to enable the completion of EES studies to a satisfactory standard.
- (ix) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of 30 business days for public comment, unless the exhibition period spans the Christmas–New Year period, in which case 40 business days will apply.
- (x) An inquiry will be appointed under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* to consider environmental effects of the proposal.

Notification

The following parties (proponent and relevant decision-makers) are to be notified of this decision in accordance with sections 8A and 8B(4)(a)(i) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, as appropriate:

- Global Power Generation Australia Pty Ltd (proponent)
- Minister for Planning
- Minister for Energy and Resources
- Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- CEO of Moyne Shire Council
- CEO of Southern Rural Water
- CEO of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- CEO of the Environment Protection Authority
- Executive Director of First Peoples – State Relations
- Executive Director of Heritage Victoria
- CEO of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation



HON SONYA KILKENNY MP
Minister for Planning

Date: 31/1/2023