

Minister for Planning
The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning
By Email: reception.kilkenny@transport.vic.gov.au

Copy to: Impact Assessment Group
State Planning Assessment and Facilitation
Department of Transport and Planning
By Email: EES.Referrals@transport.vic.gov.au

Copy to: Energy Assessment
State Planning Assessment and Facilitation
Department of Transport and Planning
By Email: Energy.Assessment@transport.vic.gov.au

Subject: Request for Advice from Minister for Planning under section 8(3) of the Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)

Dear Minister

Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) is the proponent of the Curyo Wind Farm and Battery Project (Curyo Project) which is a proposed large scale wind farm and battery energy storage project located in North West Victoria. A project map is attached to this letter as an appendix.

A pre-referral form was lodged with the Department of Planning and Transport (DTP) in relation to the Curyo Project on 22 November 2024, and a pre-referral meeting was had with DTP on 19 December 2024.

Cubico is writing this letter, as the proponent of the Curyo Project, to seek the advice of the Minister as to whether an Environment Effects Statement (EES) should be prepared for the works comprising the project, pursuant to section 8(3) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic) (EE Act), ahead of a planned referral lodgement later this year.

About Cubico

Cubico is a global renewable energy company with a portfolio exceeding 3,000 MW in operation and over 4,000 MW in development. Our advanced projects include:

- Wambo Energy Hub (506MW wind in construction);
- Middle Creek Wind Farm (up to 1.4GW in development);
- Marmadua Wind Farm (up to 700MW in development); and
- Delburn Wind Farm (205MW).

Project Overview

The Curyo Project is a proposed renewable energy development located in the Mallee region of rural Victoria, approximately 257km north of Ballarat. This project aims to generate up to 1,000 MW of clean energy through up to 162 wind turbines (subject to approval) and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), ensuring energy stability and reliability. The project site was selected due to its suitability with respect to wind resource and environmental constraints and is located within the Buloke Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council areas.

The project is situated across predominantly cropped farming land, is distanced from sensitive ecosystems (e.g. Ramsar wetlands) and is suitable for development with minimal biodiversity impacts.

Preliminary Assessments

Our initial studies have included:

- **Vegetation:** Onsite vegetation assessments, which indicate largely intact patches of native vegetation along roadsides and in some areas on private property. A large majority of the of project area is cropped farmland.
- **Fauna:** Onsite bird and bat studies conducted over multiple seasons.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Onsite Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage studies, which indicate some areas of significance which will be factored into project design.

Further studies including habitat hectare assessments, continued bird and bat surveys, Aboriginal heritage surveys and additional technical studies will be conducted in the coming months and the findings integrated into project design.

Scope of Works

The intended project works include construction of wind turbines and associated infrastructure, including access tracks, onsite reticulation, collector stations and laydown areas. The works may also comprise potential intersection upgrades, road widenings and an onsite quarry. The location and further details around the works are being developed at present and are subject to community consultation and further specialist studies.

Request for Advice

Noting the findings of the initial studies described above, we request the Minister provide advice to Cubico under section 8(3) of the EE Act as to whether a statement should be prepared for the works.

I am available to discuss this letter and any queries the Minister may have when convenient.

Kind Regards



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Appendix 1: Project Site Map

