

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Lal Lal Wind Farm Project

Proponent: WestWind Energy Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

A wind energy facility comprising up to 70 wind turbine generators with total height of 140 m to the blade tip. Buildings and works required for the facility include access tracks, underground cabling and a substation.

The facility would be located on two separate sites with a total area of about 3500 ha. The Fisken Hill site is 2 km from Yendon township. The Elaine site is 2 km from Elaine township. The project land comprises predominantly cleared agricultural land, used mostly for grazing, with some remnant vegetation on the Fisken Hill site.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement is not required for the proposed Lal Lal Wind Energy Facility as described in the referral received on 26 April 2007.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project sites mostly consist 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 cultural heritage places are found in detailed site investigations.
- Potential effects on avifauna, 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*.

Date of Decision: 1 June 2007