

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978* (REFERRAL NUMBER 2023-R07)

Proponent

Neoen Pty Ltd

Project

Navarre Green Energy Hub

Description

The Navarre Green Power Hub project is a proposed wind energy facility near the township of Navarre within the Northern Grampians and Pyrenees Shire Councils, expected to be operational for approximately 30 years. The proposal is to develop up to 102 wind turbine generators (WTG), with heights up to 270m above ground level and a total generation capacity of approximately 600 megawatts (MW). The WTGs will be located within two project sections referred to as the Eastern Layout (5,266ha, 50 WTG) and Western Layout (4,873ha, 52WTG), with two proposed easement corridors for overhead transmission lines (Eastern and Western Layout Connection and Bulgana Terminal Station Connection).

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Navarre Green Energy Hub, as described in the referral accepted on 8 September 2023.

Reasons

- The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require rigorous assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:
 - listed threatened species and communities under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
 - other ecological values of the area including habitats, ecological communities, native vegetation and the adjacent National Park and conservations reserves;
 - freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks; and
 - tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- There is uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of potential effects related to noise, historic heritage, traffic, soils, groundwater, aviation, landscape values, visual amenity and socio-economic values that also require some assessment to inform statutory decisions.
- The project has potential for cumulative adverse effects on local and regional environmental values in the context of other existing and proposed projects within the region.
- Assessment of potentially significant effects is necessary to ensure their extent and acceptability are appropriately investigated, particularly for biodiversity values. This includes examining the further avoidance and minimisation of effects via alternative

siting, layouts, design and operational procedures for aspects of the proposal, as well as evaluating their effectiveness in achieving acceptable residual environmental impacts.

- An EES is warranted to enable a single, integrated and transparent assessment of the environmental effects of the project, which will inform relevant statutory decision-making, particularly under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Date

16 May 2024