

DECISION ON PROJECT: The Kentbruck Green Power Hub Project**Decision under section 8B(3)(a) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978***

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

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

The procedures and requirements applying to the EES process, in accordance with both section 8B(5) 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 the investigation and avoidance of potential environmental effects of the proposed project, including for any relevant alternatives, as well as associated environmental mitigation and management measures. In particular, the EES needs to address:
 - a. effects on biodiversity and ecological values within, near and downstream of the project site including native vegetation, listed communities and species (flora and fauna) under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
 - b. effects on surface water environments and related beneficial uses, including as a result of changes to stream flows, discharge of sediment and acid formation from disturbance of wetlands (including but not limited to Long Swamp and Glenelg and Discover Bay Ramsar Site);
 - c. effects on groundwater that may result in adverse changes to groundwater dependent ecosystems or effect the ecological character of the Glenelg and Discovery Bay Ramsar site.
 - d. effects on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values;
 - e. effects on state and regional landscape values and national parks;
 - f. effects on local amenity values (e.g. visual, noise) , including non-neighbouring landholders;
 - g. effects on socio-economic environment, at local and regional scales, including increased traffic movement and indirect effects of construction on the capacity of local community infrastructure; and
 - h. effects from a cumulative perspective, including threatened flora and fauna, social and amenity values, with particular consideration of the currently operating and already approved wind farm projects in the region.
- (ii) The matters to be investigated and documented in the EES will be set out in detail in scoping requirements prepared by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (the department). Draft scoping requirements will be exhibited for 15 business days for public comment, before being finalised and then issued by the Minister for Planning.
- (iii) The level of detail of investigation for the EES studies should be consistent with the scoping requirements issued for this project and be adequate to inform an assessment of the potential environmental effects (and their acceptability) of the project and any relevant alternatives, in the context of the Ministerial Guidelines.
- (iv) The proponent is to prepare and submit to the department a draft EES study program to inform the preparation of scoping requirements.
- (v) The department is to convene an inter-agency technical reference group (TRG) to advise the proponent and the department, as appropriate, on scoping and adequacy of the EES investigations and documentation during the preparation of the EES, as well as coordination with statutory approval processes.
- (vi) The proponent is to prepare and submit to the department its proposed EES consultation plan for consulting the public and engaging with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES.


Once completed to the satisfaction of the department, the EES consultation plan is to be implemented by the proponent, having regard to advice from the department and the TRG.

- (vii) The proponent is also to prepare and submit to the department its proposed schedule for the studies, preparation and exhibition of the EES, following confirmation of draft scoping requirements. This is to enable effective management of the EES process on the basis of an agreed alignment of the proponent's and department's schedules, including for TRG review of technical investigations and the EES documentation.
- (viii) The proponent is to apply appropriate peer review and quality management procedures to enable the completion of EES studies and documentation to an acceptable standard.
- (ix) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of no less than 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 and report on the 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*:

- Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (proponent)
- Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
- Secretary of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services
- Secretary of Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
- Minister for Planning
- Minister for Regional Development
- Minister for Water
- Chairperson of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Executive Director of Aboriginal Victoria
- Executive Director of Heritage Victoria
- Glenelg Shire Council
- Environment Protection Authority
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- Parks Victoria



RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

Date:

25/8/19