**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal:** Dundonnell Wind Farm

**Proponent:** NewEn Australia Pty Ltd

**Description of Project:**

Dundonnell Wind Farm will comprise a maximum 89 turbines and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure including access tracks, site access road, a substation, anemometer masts, transmission infrastructure, operation and maintenance buildings and temporary concrete batching plant. Quarrying on-site during construction of the wind farm is also being investigated.

A power line easement for electrical grid connection at or near the Mortlake Power Station is also required and will be approximately 33 km in length and 50 m wide.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) **is required** for the proposed Dundonnell Wind Farm, as described in the referral accepted on 10 October 2012.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The project could have significant effects on biodiversity values, in particular threatened fauna such as the Brolga and protected migratory bird species. Further, the potential for significant impacts on the little known Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail Bat is highly uncertain.
* The project could have significant effects on the scientific and landscape values associated with volcanic features on the site if appropriate avoidance and mitigation responses are not applied.
* The project has the potential for cumulative adverse effects on biodiversity, landscape and geoscientific values in the context of nearby existing, approved and publicly known wind energy projects.
* An EES would enable an integrated assessment of development scenarios for the site and required off-site infrastructure and works, in the context of avoidance and mitigation measures commensurate with environmental values and risk.

**Date of Decision:** 21 January 2013