**Attachment 2**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal: Stockyard Hill Wind Farm and Related Projects**

**Proponent: Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd**

**Description of Project:**

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd (the proponent) proposes to develop a Stockyard Wind Farm Energy Facility (SHWEF) in south-west Victoria, approximately 4.5km south of Beaufort and 4km north of Skipton townships. The wind farm will comprise up to 149 turbines, with an overall height of up to 180 m to the blade tip, located on a total footprint area of 109.5 km2. The SHWEF infrastructure will occupy an area of 278.1ha, generally bound by Eurambeen-Streatham Road and Beaufort-Carranballac Road to the west, Stockyard Hill Road and Mt Emu Settlement Road in the south, Mount Emu Creek in the east and Ballyrogan Road, Long Gully Road and Dalgleishs Road in the north.

The related project associated with the SHWEF are:

* 75km of 132kV overhead power lines (83.4ha footprint ) connecting the wind farm to the terminal station located on Lower Darlington Road, Lismore;
* on-site quarry (57ha footprint), located on Stockyard Hill – Wangatta Road,
* access tracks (47.4ha footprint); and
* underground electrical and telecom cables

The SHWEF and a quarry would be located on the existing farm land cleared for grazing and cropping. The power line route primarily traverses private agricultural properties and parcels of public/ Crown land including road and rail reserves.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm and Related Projects, as described in the referral accepted on 1 August 2016:

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The project has potential for some adverse environmental effects, although these are unlikely to be significant, particularly as the previous planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* has resulted in mitigation and design modifications, including substantial reduction and relocation of turbines. Potential additional or changed adverse effects can be readily addressed through the required permits, which will help ensure proposed avoidance and mitigation measures are adopted together with a robust environmental management framework for the project.
* The project’s potentially significant effects on listed threatened species and communities under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, including Brolga*,* have been assessed by detailed studies for both the approved and amended projects, and on this basis, can be addressed through the proposed mitigation measures. Moreover residual effects and obligations to provide the required offsets, can be adequately addressed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, consistent with the requirements of the *Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation - Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines (2013)* and the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria 2016*.
* Potential effects on Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage can be readily addressed under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Heritage Act* 1*995*.

**Date of Decision: 7 September 2016**