**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Murra Warra Wind Farm

**Proponent:** RES Australia

**Description of Project:**

RES Australia proposes to develop a windfarm comprising of up to 116 wind turbines of approximately 3.6MW rated capacity each and a height of up to 220m. The windfarm would be located on 4,250ha of private and public land, approximately 15km south of Warracknabeal and 25km north of Horsham. The land is within a farming zone and is predominantly used for broad acre cropping and grazing.

Associated infrastructure would include internal site access tracks, up to four anemometry masts, underground and overhead cabling, up to two intermediate collector stations, a terminal substation and connection to the SP Ausnet 220kV high voltage transmission line located on the site, a utility area, upgrades to existing public roads and new access points to the site. Temporary infrastructure would include construction compounds, turbine component lay down areas and concrete batching plant(s). A sandstone quarry would be established on site to supply base material for road construction and crane hardstand areas.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Murra Warra Wind Farm, as described in the referral accepted on the 21st June 2016.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* There is potential for some adverse environmental effects, although these are likely to be only of local significance, particularly with appropriate environmental management measures adopted.
* The likely potential effects on landscape, amenity, biodiversity and habitat values, as well as the proponent’s 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*.
* Issues related to potential historical archaeological sites and potential Aboriginal Cultural Heritage can be readily addressed under the *Heritage Act* 1*995* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

**Date of Decision:** 26 July 2016