



Minister for Planning

Our Ref: DSE 006009

20 AUG 2004

Mr Alistair Wilson
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Dear Mr Wilson

NAROGHID WIND FARM

Thank you for your recent letter seeking advice on whether the proposed Naroghid Wind Farm at Naroghid requires assessment under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

I am advised that the great majority of the wind turbine generators are proposed to be located on cleared farm land. Consequently, the wind farm is unlikely to lead to significant ecological impacts on indigenous flora and fauna. I understand the site is adjacent to Ewen Hill and is within a few kilometres of other areas of landscape significance. The potential impacts of the wind farm on both visual and landscape values nearby as well as residents' amenity will be important considerations for the planning permit application. However, the preliminary landscape assessment prepared for NWF indicates that the wind farm would not have a major landscape impact.

While the potential impacts of the Naroghid Wind Farm will require careful consideration, I am satisfied that the planning permit process in accordance with the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for the Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria* will provide an adequate basis for assessing these impacts.

For the above reasons, I have determined that an Environment Effects Statement is not required under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

The Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for this 30 to 55 MW wind energy proposal under the Corangamite Shire Planning Scheme. Documentation to support the planning permit application is to be prepared in accordance with the abovementioned Wind Energy Guidelines as part of the requirements of the Planning Scheme. I ask that you consult with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in scoping your program of studies and finalising the documentation prior to lodging the planning permit application. Consultation with Council planners will also be appropriate.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Ms Mandy Elliott, DSE Policy Officer on telephone (03) 5226 4003.

Yours sincerely

MANDY DELAHUNTY MP
Minister for Planning