

Friday, 28 November, 2008

NO EES REQUIRED FOR REVISED ARARAT WIND FARM

An environment effects statement (EES) will not be required for an increase in the number of turbines at a proposed wind farm near Ararat.

Planning Minister Justin Madden said the Brumby Government is committed to delivering on its Renewable Energy Target of a minimum of 10 per cent by 2016.

“The Brumby Government is taking action on renewable energy,” Mr Madden said.

“Previously it had been decided an EES was not required for the proposed 50 turbine wind farm facility.

“In the revised plans submitted by the proponent, plans included 12 turbines in the northern section of the site and 64 turbines in the southern section closer to the Pyrenees Highway.”

The proponent now proposes to develop a wind farm including up to 76 turbines and associated infrastructure at a location seven kilometres northeast of Ararat, within the Northern Grampians Shire and the Ararat Rural City.

“I am pleased that the proposed expansion of turbines at the Ararat Wind Farm may in the future assist in meeting the Brumby Government’s *Victorian Renewable Energy Target*.”

“The location consists of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the position of turbines to avoid adverse effects on the local environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage,” he said.

It is proposed the turbines be constructed on two distinct sites located approximately 1.1 kilometres north, and 500 metres south, of the Pyrenees Highway.

The potential for specific local environmental effects of the project, along with the views of the community and stakeholders, will be considered through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

For further information go to: www.dpcd.vic.gov.au