



## Minister for Planning

Ref: DSE048374  
File: PL-PL/02/1210

8 Nicholson Street  
PO Box 500  
East Melbourne Victoria 8002  
Telephone: (03) 9637 8087  
Facsimile: (03) 9637 8921  
ABN 90 719 052 204  
DX 210098

S.E. 17/1/08.

Mr Colin Liebman  
RES Australia Pty Ltd  
P O Box 1274  
CROWS NEST NSW 1585

14 JAN 2008

Dear Mr Liebman

### ARARAT WIND FARM - EES REFERRAL

Thank you for your recent referral of the proposed Ararat Wind Farm under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

I understand that RES Australia Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind farm comprising up to 50 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure on land near Ararat in south west Victoria.

I have determined under section 8B(3) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* that assessment through an Environment Effects Statement is not required for this proposal for the reasons attached.

I note that the proposal would be the subject of planning permit applications under the Ararat and Northern Grampians planning schemes. It is my expectation that the planning permit applications will be supported by the range of studies outlined in your company's referral.

Yours sincerely

**JUSTIN MADDEN MLC**  
Minister for Planning

Encl

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**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Ararat Wind Farm

**Proponent:** RES Australia Pty Ltd

**Description of Project:**

RES Australia Pty Ltd proposes to develop a wind farm, comprising up to 50 turbines and associated on-site infrastructure in western Victoria. The wind farm would be developed on two sites approximately 3 km apart about 7 km north-east of Ararat, with one site about 1.1 km north of the Pyrenees Highway and the other 550 m south of the highway.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Ararat Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 3 December 2007.

**Reasons for Decision:**

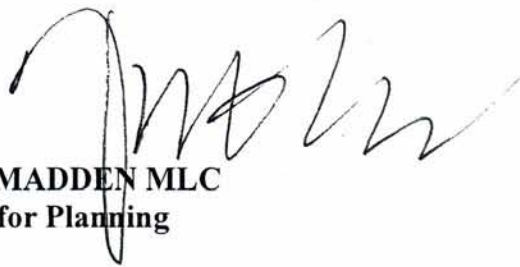
- The proposed wind farm would be located on mostly cleared agricultural land and there is considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid adverse effects.
- The preliminary ecological investigations indicate that the proposed Ararat Wind Farm is unlikely to have a significant effect on remnant native vegetation or flora and fauna species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. There are opportunities for identifying measures to avoid or minimise potential effects on fauna through a bird utilisation survey and targeted surveys for listed fauna species.
- Potential effects on landscape values and residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only, with some potential for mitigation.
- The potential environmental effects of the project can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Date of Decision:**

Attachment 1

**DECISION ON PROJECT: Ararat Wind Farm**  
**Under section 8B(3) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978***

1. Assessment though an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* **is not required** for the reasons set out in the attached Notice of Reasons for Decision.
2. Conditions: None
3. The following parties (proponent and relevant decision-makers) are to be notified of this decision:
  - RES Australia Pty Ltd.
  - Northern Grampians Shire Council
  - Ararat Rural City Council



**JUSTIN MADDEN MLC**  
**Minister for Planning**