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## RES CELEBRATES ARARAT WIND FARM CONSENT

RES is pleased to announce receipt of the planning consent for the Ararat wind farm in Victoria, Australia. The wind farm will consist of 75 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 135m and an export capacity of up to 247.5MWs. Depending on the final turbine selected, the project will generate enough electricity to power between 83,000 – 137,000 homes per year.

The consent followed the submission of Planning Applications to two separate local government areas in October 2009 and subsequent Panel Hearing in July this year. The consent was granted on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October by the Minister for Planning, Hon Justin Madden.

Ignacio Palacios, Development Manager for the project said: *“This is a fantastic achievement by the whole team at RES and a great result for the local region, as well as Victoria. We have spent several years working on this project and are delighted that the consent was issued just three months after the Panel Hearing. The support from the local community and Ararat Rural City and Northern Grampians Shire Councils throughout the development of the wind farm has been greatly appreciated, which I’ve no doubt has helped the Minister for Planning in reaching a positive decision so promptly. The Ararat wind farm will contribute to the legislated Renewable Energy Target to deliver 20 per cent of Australia’s electricity from sustainable sources by 2020.”*

Chris Sweatman, COO of RES in Australia said: *“This is an ideal location for a wind farm and we have worked hard with the local authorities, stakeholders and residents to ensure that any concerns were addressed. The project will bring significant local economic and social benefits.”*

The wind farm will also reduce Australia’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by between 560,000 and 925,000 tonnes per year depending on the wind turbine model selected.

RES is continuing to progress the grid route and is aiming to submit the planning applications to the two local authorities – Ararat Rural City Council and Pyrenees Shire Council – for their review in early 2011.

ENDS



Notes to editors:

1. The RES group is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of wind energy development for over 25 years, the RES group has developed and/or built more than 5GW of wind energy capacity worldwide. Internationally, the RES group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including large-scale biomass, solar, wave and tidal and on-site renewable installations. For more information, please visit: [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com).
2. RES Australia Pty Ltd (RES) is an independent wind farm operator in the Australian market, operating as a subsidiary of the RES group. RES was established in Australia in 2004 and is currently developing a portfolio of projects mainly across New South Wales and Victoria, with the most advanced being the fully consented 61 turbine Taralga project in New South Wales and the 200+ turbine Peshurst project in Victoria which will be submitted into planning in the first half of 2011. For more information, please visit: [www.res-australia.com](http://www.res-australia.com)

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