

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Mortlake Wind Farm

Proponent: Acciona Energy Oceania Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

Acciona Energy proposes to develop a wind farm comprising 96 turbines and associated facilities near Mortlake in south-west Victoria. There would be two project areas, Mortlake South and Mortlake East. The Mortlake South area (46 turbines) is approximately 5 km south of Mortlake and is adjacent to the Terang-Mortlake Road. The Mortlake East area (50 Turbines) is approximately 9.5 km east of Mortlake. The Mortlake Wind Farm would have a rated maximum capacity of to 288 MW.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Mortlake Wind Farm as described in the referral accepted on 19 May 2009.

Reasons for Decision:

- The two project areas mostly consist of cleared agricultural land, with considerable scope to adjust the siting of turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid adverse effects on native vegetation.
- Extensive investigations of the Brolga population on and in the vicinity of the two wind farm areas have been undertaken for the proponent. These findings, in combination with results from other studies, should provide an informed basis for determining appropriate buffer distances and offsetting measures.
- The proposed use of buffers around significant wetlands would reduce potential effects on avifauna listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, as well as migratory species protected under international treaties.
- Potential effects on other fauna, 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, including remaining uncertainties regarding avifauna effects and mitigation, can be adequately assessed through the planning permit process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Date of Decision: 14 JUL 2009