

# APPENDIX E

EES REFERRAL LETTER FOR MINISTER

SEPTEMBER 2018



Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning

8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002  
Telephone: 03 8683 0965  
DX210098

Mr David Mounter  
Manager Renewable Asset Development  
Hydro Tasmania  
GPO Box 355  
Hobart Tas 7001

Ref: MBR033985



Dear Mr Mounter

**MT FYANS WIND FARM**

Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding Pty Ltd recently sought my advice on the need for an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* for the proposed Mt Fyans Wind Farm Project.

I have determined, under section 8B(3) of the Act, that an **EES is not required, subject to conditions**, for the reasons attached.

If you have any further queries about this matter please contact Dr Bruce Abernethy, Director, Impact Assessment, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on (03) 8392 5471 or email [bruce.abernethy@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:bruce.abernethy@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

HON RICHARD WYNNE MP  
Minister for Planning

21 / 8 / 17

Encl.

**Attachment 2****For Public Notice via Internet****REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978****Title of Proposal:** Mt Fyans Wind Farm**Proponent:** Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding Pty Ltd**Description of Project:**

The project is located in south west Victoria, approximately 140 km west of Geelong and 4 km north of the town of Mortlake (population of approximately 1,350). Mt Shadwell is located between the project and Mortlake. The project site is 13,050 ha with 3,450 ha nominated as the area of the proposed wind turbine and transmission development envelopes. The area expected to be used for permanent infrastructure is 65 ha.

The project will comprise of a maximum of 81 Class II / III wind turbines with a maximum height of 165 m (the tip of the turbine blade in the vertical position), an on-site substation, switchyard and control building housed in one facility, an off-site substation located immediately to the east of the existing Mortlake Substation, approximately 19 km of overhead electrical line connecting the on-site substation to a new off-site substation adjacent to the existing Mortlake Substation, underground cable connecting the turbine clusters, approximately 70 km of internal site access tracks, and up to two permanent wind monitoring (anemometry) masts. Temporary infrastructure associated with construction of the project will include construction facilities including office space, meeting rooms, a first aid room, toilets and parking and materials storage areas, laydown areas, and on-site concrete batching plants.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required, subject to the following conditions, for the Mt Fyans Wind Farm, as described in the referral accepted on 27 July 2017.

- 1) An assessment of the potential utilisation of the project site by the Southern Bent Wing Bat must be prepared for the project, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning which should confirm the suitability of the method applied. The assessment must include an investigation of the potential utilisation of the project site by the species and specific measures intended to address predicted effects and risks to the listed Southern Bent Wing Bat. The assessment is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning as part of the documentation required for statutory processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- 2) An assessment of the presence of the listed *Pterostylis* orchid species determined to be potentially present in the project site must be prepared in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning which should confirm the suitability of the method applied. The assessment must include targeted autumn surveys for the potentially present listed species within proposed development areas north of Woorndoo-Darlington Road and the project's approach to avoid, minimise or offset potential effects to these species if they are present. The assessment is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning as part of the documentation required for statutory processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The project site contains significant environmental values related to biodiversity, geo-heritage and landscape and visual amenity however the proponent has undertaken detailed investigations related to these aspects and has demonstrated how the project will largely avoid, minimise or manage potential significant adverse effects to these values.
- There is uncertainty related to a limited number of listed flora and fauna species, listed in the conditions above, and how the project can avoid and minimise potential effects to these species.

- The conditions set out through this decision provide the most appropriate means for examining the remaining uncertainties for the limited number of potentially significant residual effects that may occur as a result of the delivery of the project.
- Other potential adverse effects of the project are well understood and will be readily addressed through other existing statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Water Act 1989* and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995*.

**Date of Decision: 21 August 2017**