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MEDIA RELEASE

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GREEN LIGHT FOR SECOND LARGEST WIND FARM IN NSW

Approval has been given for the second largest wind farm in NSW - a \$700 million 270 megawatt facility to be located near Nimmitabel on the far south coast.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the facility has the potential to power up to 120,000 homes each year when fully operational and support around 200 construction jobs and 15 ongoing positions.

“The wind farm will be constructed by Boco Rock Wind Farm Pty Ltd using one of two possible layouts – 122 turbines or 104 turbines,” the Minister said.

“The company hopes to be producing electricity in 2012 and be fully operational by 2013.

“This wind farm will assist NSW in its leadership role supplying renewable energy to the power grid and will lead to greenhouse gas reductions equivalent to taking more than 160,000 cars off the road each year.

“In fact it would help NSW meet its State Plan target to achieve a 60% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

“The facility will be located in a sparsely populated area in the high altitude plateau of the Monaro Plains, around 50 kilometres east of Kosciuszko National Park.

“Because of its isolated location, there are only two non-involved houses located within a three kilometre radius of the nearest wind turbine”.

Federal Member for Eden Monaro, Mike Kelly, said the wind farm will help NSW meet the Federal Government’s renewable energy target.

“The project will also require Federal Government approval due to its potential flora and fauna impacts, and that process should be completed soon,” Mr Kelly said.

The wind farm was assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act – the NSW Government’s major projects assessment system.

A total of 73 conditions have been imposed on the project requiring Boco Rock to:

- Permanently protect 750 hectares of natural temperate grasslands, to offset the disturbance to vegetation as a result of the wind farm’s construction and operation;
- Provide screen planting at some residences to block views of the turbines, even though a Departmental assessment found the visual impacts of the turbines would generally be low;
- Give annual contributions of \$2,500 per turbine – to up to \$305,000 per year depending on the layout – to the local community to fund projects such as infrastructure upgrades and tourist development; and
- Implement strict monitoring measures to ensure projected low levels of noise are maintained.