

Friday, 27 August, 2010

Glen Innes wind farm media statement

The Glen Innes wind farm is expected to proceed with a slightly modified layout following an agreement between the wind farm proponents and residents, the Department of Planning said today.

The Department of Planning has issued this statement following media reports on the issue this morning.

The NSW Government last year gave planning approval for the 26-turbine, \$150 million wind farm, located 12km west of Glen Innes.

The approval was challenged in the Land and Environment Court by the Glen Innes Landscape Guardians.

However, prior to the start of the hearing, the wind farm proponent and the guardians group were able to come to an agreement on a revised layout of the project, including various amendments to the conditions of approval.

The amendments included:

- Deleting one turbine from the project;
- A commitment by the proponent not to seek the re-instatement of one turbine deleted by the former Minister for Planning as a condition of the approval; and
- The relocation of several turbines further away from residences.

The NSW Government supported the revised turbine layout and the parties entered into a consent orders hearing at Armidale Court house on 9-10 August 2010.

The Court approved the parties' agreement in a verbal decision delivered in Court on 10 August 2010. However, the Court is still to hand down its written judgment and provide stamped conditions of approval.

The Court technically upheld the appeal because the approval had been slightly altered on agreement between the parties.

Nevertheless, the Government's approval has been supported by the Court and will proceed with only minor amendment.

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