

Wednesday, 23 November, 2011

Feedback encouraged on Sapphire Wind Farm proposal in northern NSW

The public is being invited to comment on an environmental assessment for a wind farm near Glen Innes in northern NSW, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proposed development of the Sapphire Wind Farm near Glen Innes, 28 kilometres east of Inverell, includes construction and operation of up to 159 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

The environmental assessment for the proposal is on public exhibition from **Wednesday, 23 November 2011 until Thursday, 1 March 2012**. Public consultation is an important part of the assessment process and interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponents' response to submissions document, will be made available on the department's website. The submissions and proponent's responses will be carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of each project.

The department required the proponent to specifically address issues including noise, traffic, flora and fauna and landscape character in its environmental assessment.

The environmental assessment for the project can be viewed during business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **NSW Nature Conservation Council** – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;
- **Inverell Shire Council** – Administration Centre, 144 Otho Street, Inverell;
- **Glen Innes Severn Shire Council** – 136 Church Street, Glen Innes;
- **Glen Innes Library** – 71 Grey Street, Glen Innes.

All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department's website, and can be accessed by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

Submissions can be:

- Lodged online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> (search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455; or
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Media contact: Brendan Berecny on (02) 9228 6257

NOTE: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.