

Thursday, 26 July 2012

Community views sought on wind farm proposal in Southern Tablelands

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is giving the community 60 days to comment on a proposed wind farm at Collector in the Southern Tablelands.

RATCH-Australia Corporation Ltd is proposing to build up to 68 wind turbines outside the township of Collector, approximately 35 kilometres south of Goulburn.

The proposed wind farm would be capable of generating up to 228 megawatts (MW) of electricity, or enough energy to power around 80,000 homes annually.

RATCH-Australia's proposal also includes associated infrastructure such as access tracks, local road upgrades, electrical connections between the turbines and a new substation, as well as temporary and permanent meteorological masts and a maintenance facility.

The proponent was required to take account of the draft NSW wind farm guidelines in its environmental assessment, including addressing the requirements for consultation, aviation safety, bushfire issues and decommissioning.

In particular, the proponent:

- Sought agreement by letter with residents living within two kilometres of the proposed site;
- Consulted with aviation industry agencies;
- Consulted with the Rural Fire Service and considered impacts to aerial fire fighting operations; and
- Will be responsible for decommissioning the wind farm.

As with all current wind farm proposals, the environmental assessment will be on exhibition for an extended period of 60 days from **Thursday 26 July** until **Monday 24 September 2012**.

Following public exhibition, the department will complete a full merit assessment of the proposal with regard to the issues raised in submissions.

To comment on the proposal, members of the public are invited to inspect the project's environmental assessment online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> or during regular business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** - Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Collector Café** - 5-7 Murray Street, Collector;
- **Upper Lachlan Shire Council** - 44 Spring Street, Crookwell, or 123 Yass Street, Gunning;
- **Gunning Library** - 92 Yass Street, Gunning; and

- **Nature Conservation Council** - 2/5 Wilson Street, Newtown

Submissions will be made publicly available. Those who do not want their name or other personal details to be made available should clearly state this in their submission.

Submissions can be:

- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning & Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001, or
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au or via the entry for the project on the department's website <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

Media contact: Natalie Christie, (02) 9228 6295

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.