

Tuesday, 20 March 2012

Wind farm guidelines and Boorowa Council submission
Response given to *Boorowa News*

Can you provide a response to issues raised in Boorowa Council's submission on the draft wind farm guidelines?

Department of Planning and Infrastructure response:

The issue of road maintenance was raised during the recent extensive community consultation on the draft guidelines, and the department is considering this issue as it finalises the guidelines.

Under the draft guidelines, applicants must consult with councils throughout the development application process on a range of matters, including any likely road or bridge transport constraints during the construction phase.

Applicants must also prepare a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan in consultation with councils and neighbours. The applicant is responsible for decommissioning and rehabilitating the site, and the applicant is required to pay a bond where their decommissioning and rehabilitation plans is deemed to be inadequate. A monetary or in-kind contribution to council can be imposed as a condition of consent, while councils and applicants may also negotiate voluntary planning agreements for transport or road upgrades, or other community infrastructure.

The draft guidelines require conditions of consent to cover a range of compliance issues, including complaints management, compliance tracking, monitoring and reporting (including noise monitoring). Neighbours may also ask the department to commission an independent noise review. The Community Consultation Committee provisions in the draft guidelines include dispute resolution requirements.

The need to consult with neighbouring landowners with building entitlements was another of the many issues raised during the recent extensive community consultation on the draft guidelines, and which the department is now considering. The draft guidelines require applicants to demonstrate that effective community consultation has occurred, and this would include with neighbouring landowners.

There are extensive requirements for community consultation before, during and after the development application process. This includes obtaining the written consent of all landowners with a residence within 2km of turbines, requiring the Joint Regional Planning Panel to consult with landowners during deliberations, and the establishment of a Community Consultation Committee.