



CHANGES TO YASS VALLEY WIND FARM RECEIVE CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

10 December 2018

The state's Independent Planning Commission has approved with conditions changes to a wind farm in the NSW Southern Tablelands.

Chinese wind power giant Goldwind sought approval from the Department of Planning & Environment to modify its development consent for the Yass Valley Wind Farm, 25km west of Yass.

The proposed changes to the project include:

- a reduction to the maximum number of turbines to 75 (down from 79)
- an increase to the maximum height of the turbines from 150m to 171m and to the rotor diameter (from 121m to 142m)
- sealing and redesigning the site access along Whitefields Road to reduce vegetation clearing from 4.85 to 0.49 hectares
- increasing the vegetation clearing limit on the wind farm site for endangered ecological communities from 68.3 to 179.8 hectares, comprising predominantly derived native grassland, and
- a number of design refinements and project scope clarifications

The Department referred the modification application to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for final decision after receiving 82 public objections to the proposal.

IPC Chair, Professor Mary O'Kane AC, appointed a three-member panel, comprising Mr Alan Coutts (Panel Chair), Professor Zada Lipman and Mr Adrian Pilton, to determine the application.

The Commissioners met separately with the proponent, representatives of the Department, and Yass Valley Council and inspected the project site and surrounding area. They also held a public meeting in Yass to listen to the local community's views.

Having carefully considered all the evidence, as well as the issues raised by the community at the public meeting and in written submissions, the Commission has today (Monday 10 December 2018) determined that consent should be granted subject to conditions.

The Commission, in its *Statement of Reasons for Decision*, concluded "the modified project is substantially the same for which consent was originally granted" (by the former Planning Assessment Commission), noting there was "no introduction of elements or new turbines that are any more prominent or out of character" with the previously approved project.

.../2

These conditions are designed to:

- prevent, minimise and/or offset adverse social and environmental impacts
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance
- require regular monitoring and reporting, and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the development

Disclaimer

This media statement has been prepared by the Commission's media unit for general information only. It does not form part of the Commission's Statement of Reasons for Decision, and should not be read as part of, or as a substitute for, that Statement of Reasons for Decision.