

PALING YARDS WIND FARM PLANNING PROCESS

Union Fenosa Wind Australia (UFWA) (the proponent) is seeking project approval for the construction and operation of a wind energy facility known as the Paling Yards Wind Farm.

The project was a Critical Infrastructure and transitional Part 3A project under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) until 19th March 2014 when NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) notified the proponent that all transitional Part 3A wind farm projects have now been moved to the new State Significant Development (SSD) status, as such they will be assessed as SSD projects. However to minimise disruption to the assessment process, the actions take under Part 3A process to date, have been accredited under the SSD process and are taken to have been completed.

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment was lodged by Tract Consultants on behalf of the proponent with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) (formerly the Department of Planning) on 12 April 2010. DGRs were subsequently issued for the project on 6 May 2010 and the supplementary DGRs were issued on 16 August 2011.

The NSW Government released the Draft NSW Wind Farm Planning Guidelines (Draft Guidelines) for exhibition on 23 December 2011. DoPI wrote to all proponents of wind farms in NSW on 18 April 2012 regarding the Draft Guidelines and enclosed a checklist highlighting the key provisions of the guidelines which should be adopted for all applications yet to be exhibited.

Whilst the Draft Guidelines are yet to be finalised and further supplementary DGRs have not been issued requiring consideration of the Draft Guidelines in this EA, the EA considers the Draft Guidelines and demonstrates that the project is generally in accordance with the Draft Guidelines.

The project is now being considered by DoPI. The Proposal is currently on public exhibition and the public has the opportunity to make submissions to DoPI relating to the proposed wind farm.

PLANNING PROCESS

PROPONENT UNDERTAKES A PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH LANDOWNERS.

PROPONENT LODGES REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A STATE SIGNIFICANT WIND FARM PROPOSAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DOPI).

DOPI CONSIDERS THE APPLICATION, AND MAY REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION.

ONCE ADEQUATE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, DOPI ISSUES DIRECTOR-GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL.

PROPONENT UNDERTAKES COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

PROPONENT LODGES DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION WITH DOPI.

DOPI CONSIDERS APPLICATION, AND MAY REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION.

ONCE ADEQUATE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, DOPI RELEASES THE PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION.

PROPONENT HOLDS A COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT FACE-TO-FACE WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, STAKEHOLDERS AND AUTHORITIES IN ATTENDANCE.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE TO DOPI REGARDING THE PROPOSAL. PROPONENT ALSO PREPARES A SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY AND PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS LODGED.

DOPI CONSIDERS THE PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSIONS AND PREPARES AN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT TO EITHER REFUSE OR GRANT A PERMIT (WITH CONDITIONS) FOR THE PROPOSED WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT, AND SUBMITS IT TO THE PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.

THE PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMISSION REVIEWS THE REPORT AND THE PROPOSAL, AND MAKES A DECISION ON THE WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING

SUBMISSIONS

The environmental assessment is on public exhibition from Friday 28 March 2014 to Friday 30 May, 2014. 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 proponent's response to submissions document, will be made available on the department's website and carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of the project.

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> (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001



PHOTO Rock Orchard (view from residential dwelling) (Proposed View)



PHOTO View south to south west from Abercrombie Road



PHOTO View north from Bummaroo Ford campground



SITE PHOTO View north from Abercrombie Road

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