

## **NSW Planning Assessment Commission Determination Rye Park Wind Farm Project (SSD 6693)**

22 May 2017

The Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) has granted consent to State significant development application (SSD 6693) from Rye Park Renewable Energy Propriety Limited for the Rye Park Wind Farm Project, subject to conditions. The decision follows the public meeting in Boorowa on 30 March 2017.

The Commission had regard to the Applicant's Environmental Assessment, the Response to Submissions and the Department's assessment report and carefully considered submissions made through written submissions to the Commission and presentations to the public meeting. The Commission has balanced the economic, social and environmental factors in its determination of the proposal.

The Commission supports the Department's assessment of the visual impact on non-associated residences from turbines in the Intermediate precinct. However, the Commission in its assessment of the project does not fully support the Department's recommendation to remove all 16 turbines from the North-Western precinct based on visual impact and the impact on Rye Park village's land use zoning. The Commission notes the subjectivity of visual assessments and has recommended the removal of 8 wind turbines that would have moderate-high visual impacts on residences and the public domain of Rye Park village and nearby residences.

The total number of wind turbines approved for this project is 92.

The Commission noted the diversity of community opinion over the project's impacts, and acknowledged that the project, as submitted to the Commission would have negative impacts on a number of non-associated residences. However, the Commission considered that, with the removal of a number of turbines and with appropriate conditions, these impacts could be effectively mitigated and are outweighed by the broader public benefit.

The Commission noted that the project would provide benefits to the locality, which include contributions to renewable energy, employment and capital investment, and that the project is in the public interest. The Commission accepts the Department's recommendation for approval.



**Mr Gordon Kirkby (Chair)**  
**Member of the Commission**



**Mr John Hann**  
**Member of the Commission**



**Mr Ross Carter**  
**Member of the Commission**