



WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Ass # 703
Bull # 647
State # 289

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

WIND FARM NEAR NINE MILE BEACH, ESPERANCE (703)

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent Commitments

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in response to issues raised following public submissions. These commitments are consolidated in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 647 as Appendix 3. (A copy of the commitments is attached.)

2 Implementation

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

3 Landscape Quality

- 3-1 The proponent shall design and locate the wind generators, transformer, powerline and access road, so as to minimize their impact on the landscape quality of the area.

4 Environmental Management Programme

- 4-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall submit to the Minister for the Environment an Environmental Management Programme, which sets out the measures to meet the requirements of condition 3-1 and the commitments attached to this statement, prepared in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority.

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5 Decommissioning

The satisfactory decommissioning of the project, removal of the plant and installations and rehabilitation of the site and its environs is the responsibility of the proponent.

5-1 At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan.

5-2 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 5-1.

6 Proponent

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

6-1 No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

7 Time Limit on Approval

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

7-1 If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced. Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.)

8 Compliance Auditing

In order to ensure that environmental conditions and commitments are met, an audit system is required.

8-1 The proponent shall prepare periodic "Progress and Compliance Reports", to help verify the environmental performance of this project, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority.

Procedure

The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for verifying compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, with the exception of conditions stating that the proponent shall meet the requirements of either the Minister for the Environment or any other government agency.

If the Environmental Protection Authority, other government agency or proponent is in dispute concerning compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, that dispute will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.


Jim McGinty MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

26 OCT 1992

PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS

WIND FARM NEAR NINE MILE BEACH, ESPERANCE (703)

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The proponent has made the following environmental commitments:

COMMITMENTS

1 CLEARING OF VEGETATION

Clearing of vegetation for the wind generators, control building, access roads and powerline will be kept to the minimum necessary.

2 REHABILITATION

All areas disturbed during construction and not needing to be kept cleared will be rehabilitated after construction. This will be achieved by replacing topsoil and mulched vegetation, which will be stockpiled during clearing, on the disturbed areas and monitoring regrowth. Remedial measures such as seeding or mulching will be taken on any areas which do not show satisfactory regeneration after the first couple of seasons.

3 ABORIGINAL SITES

No aboriginal archaeological sites are known or believed to exist in the project area. However, once the final locations of the wind generators, control building, access tracks and powerline have been finalised, SECWA will commission an Aboriginal Sites survey of these areas. Should any aboriginal archaeological sites be found then the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites will be informed.

4 PUBLIC ACCESS

Subject to CALM and EPA approval of a suitable access road, SECWA will provide public access to the base of one of the wind generators. Interpretive facilities will also be provided at the site.

5 POWERLINE CONSTRUCTION

Standard SECWA procedures regarding height and spacing of poles will be followed to ensure public safety and minimise fire risk from the powerline.

6 POWERLINE ROUTE

Where possible, the powerline will be sited low in the landscape to minimise its visibility.

7 DIEBACK AND WEED PROTECTION

Strict dieback hygiene measures will be adhered to during construction and operation of the wind farm, powerline and access roads/tracks to avoid the introduction of dieback and weeds.

These will include:

- o washing the undersides of all vehicles prior to entering the site (except on the completed access road);
- o obtaining all road building and fill materials from uncontaminated sources;
- o visual monitoring and prompt treatment of any isolated outbreaks of weed infestation; and
- o adherence to the guidelines set out in the CALM Dieback Hygiene Manual (1986).

8 NOISE

SECWA will undertake a regular maintenance programme to ensure that the noise levels generated by the wind farm are minimised.

9 EROSION CONTROL

SECWA will utilise the knowledge and techniques gained at the existing wind farm site to minimise wind and water erosion at the new site. These measures include landscaping, rehabilitation and careful siting of cleared areas. Any localised occurrences of erosion will be treated promptly.

10 VISUAL IMPACTS

SECWA will take care to site the powerlines, access tracks and the wind farm control building so as to minimise their visibility from outside the project area. SECWA will consult with the Landscape and Recreation Branch of CALM to determine the optimum location for the access track. The generator towers and blades will be coloured grey and/or white. The colour of the control building will be chosen so as to blend into the background. SECWA will undertake a further detailed visual impacts study, to the satisfaction of the EPA on the advice of CALM and DPUD, once the exact locations of the wind generators and powerline are known if the locations are significantly different to those considered in this study.

11 SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SECWA will prepare a site development plan once the exact locations of the wind generators, powerline and access tracks are known. This plan will be prepared to the satisfaction of the EPA, and will address the following:

- o the precise locations of the wind generators;
- o the location and design of the access road;
- o visitor parking area(s);
- o the location and development of suitable lookouts;
- o pedestrian paths;
- o internal access tracks;
- o the location and design of powerline routes and the wind farm control building;
- o the design and colours of the wind generators;
- o fencing of the wind farm; and
- o erosion control.

12 DECOMMISSIONING

At the end of the life of the wind farm, unless further wind generation facilities are to be installed at the site, all structures will be removed, all cleared areas will be ripped and rehabilitated and the site will be returned to its original function as a flora reserve.

13 CONTRACTS

All contractors employed by SECWA during construction of the wind farm will be bound by these and any other commitments made by SECWA.