



Approval

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Central Western Victoria (EPBC 2009/4719)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted	Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd
proponent's ACN (if applicable)	118 119 501
proposed action	Development of the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm in central western Victoria including turbines, associated onsite infrastructure, and the construction of an external powerline and terminal station to the south of the wind farm site.

Approval decision

Controlling Provision	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approved
Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)	Approved

conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 31 December 2050.

Decision-maker

name and position	Michelle Wicks Assistant Secretary Environment Assessment Branch
--------------------------	--

signature	
------------------	--

date of decision	11 February 2011
-------------------------	------------------

Conditions:

1. Prior to any **works** commencing, surveys for Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) and surveys for Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*), Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) and Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) and their habitat must be undertaken in areas that will be disturbed by the development of the wind farm and associated infrastructure.

These surveys must utilise the approach for identifying NTGVVP remnants outlined on page 10 of the *Peer review of flora and fauna matters of national environmental*



significance (EPBC: 2009/4719) for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm report by Biosis Research Pty Ltd (February 2010), and must be conducted in accordance with relevant **EPBC Act** policy statements and survey guidelines for these species.

2. Prior to any **works** commencing, the person undertaking the action must submit to **the Department** for approval a plan identifying the siting and extent of NTGVVP to be impacted. The approved plan must be implemented.
If additional areas of NTGVVP identified during surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 1 will be impacted by the proposed action, **the Department** must be advised and appropriate compensatory measures must be included in the plan for approval by **the Department**.
3. Prior to any **works** commencing, the person undertaking the action must submit to **the Department** for approval a salvage and translocation plan for relocating Striped Legless Lizard individuals disturbed during construction. The approved plan must be implemented.
4. If Spiny Rice-flower or Golden Sun Moth are identified in surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 1, the **Department** must be informed and the wind farm infrastructure layout must be **micro-sited** to avoid these species and their habitat.
5. **Micro-siting** of infrastructure must be conducted on the advice of a qualified botanist and zoologist and must be informed by the results of the pre-construction surveys required by condition 1. Prior to any **works** commencing, areas to be protected must be demarcated on the ground using protective fencing to prevent access of construction machinery and personnel and the deposition of any materials or waste.
6. Within 10 days of commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing the actual date of **commencement**.
7. If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the **Minister** notifies the person taking the action in writing that the **Minister** is not satisfied that there has been commencement of any of the works associated with the action, the action must not thereafter be commenced without the written agreement of the **Minister**.
8. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval and make them available upon request to the **Department**. Such records may be subject to audit by the **Department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the **EPBC Act**, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the **Department's** website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.

Definitions:

Commissioning means the commencement of operation of the wind farm infrastructure including wind turbines.

Department means the Department administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

EPBC Act means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*.

Micro-siting / micro-sited means where the location of a wind turbine or other wind farm infrastructure including within the external powerline route and terminal station site is altered by not more than 100 metres in order to minimise impacts on the environment.

Minister means the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Works includes all works to be undertaken including all preparatory works, clearing vegetation, the erection of any temporary or permanent structures and the use of heavy equipment for the purpose of breaking ground for buildings and infrastructure, within the site of the wind farm, external powerline route and terminal station.