



Mr James Townsend  
Senior Project Developer  
Verve Energy  
GPO Box F366  
**PERTH WA 6841**

Dear Mr Townsend

**PUBLIC ADVICE UNDER SECTION 39A(7)**  
***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**PROPOSAL: WARRADARGE WIND FARM**  
**LOCATION: 15 KM NORTH EAST OF WARRADARGE**  
**LOCALITY: SHIRE OF COOROW AND SHIRE OF CARNAMAH**  
**PROponent: VERVE ENERGY**  
**DECISION: NOT ASSESSED – PUBLIC ADVICE GIVEN**

Further to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) letter of 24 September 2012 with regard to the above proposal, the Office of the EPA (OEPA) advises that no appeals were received against the EPA's determination that your proposal should be treated as *Not Assessed-Public Advice Given*.

Accordingly, the OEPA provides the following advice:

**ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The Proposal*

The proposal referred to the EPA and to which this advice applies is described in the proponent's referral document, *Warradarge Wind Farm Development EPA Referral Form*, (Verve Energy, June 2012). However, the EPA notes that the wind farm design is flexible and Verve Energy have presented a 'worst case scenario' in terms of wind turbine spacing, visual impact and noise. The proposal includes:

- Construction of up to 100 wind turbines each up to 152 metres (m) high, with a capacity of up to 250 Megawatts; and
- All associated infrastructure:
  - electricity transformers;
  - underground cabling;
  - access tracks, all weather access to Garibaldi Willis Road;
  - crane hardstands;
  - a substation compound including a metering building, site office and workshop and a communication mast;

- a 10 kilometre (km) overhead electricity transmission line to the 330kV transmission system, with up to 22 transmission towers that are up to 63 m in height, and up to five permanent free-standing wind monitoring masts up to 100m high.

## **1. Environmental Issues**

- a. Noise
- b. Bird Strikes

## **2. Advice and Recommendations regarding Environmental Issues**

### **a. Noise**

The EPA recognises that the proposed wind farm is consistent with the Western Australian *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* and the noise impact assessment has been carried out in accordance with the South Australian EPA *Wind Farms – Environmental Noise Guidelines* (July, 2009). However, to minimise the risk of future noise non-compliance it is recommended that a 35 dB(A) noise contour is used instead of the proposed 39 dB(A) noise contour, to delineate the zone for avoiding future noise sensitive premises.

To give effect to the above noise compliance/criteria it is understood that Verve Energy has committed to entering into Good Neighbour Agreements with the relevant parties. In the event that Good Neighbour Agreements cannot be reached, it is understood that Verve Energy in its email of 2 October 2012 will commit to the following to meet the above-mentioned noise criteria at the boundary:

- Relocate the turbines to non-optimal locations such that under all scenarios Verve Energy will not exceed the noise limits at any future noise sensitive dwelling on the neighbouring lot. This would mean moving the turbines away from the neighbouring boundary towards the centre of the wind farm; or
- Accept the commercial risk that if Verve Energy proceeds with the optimal locations for the wind turbines within the approved development area, and if a new house or other noise sensitive premises is built near the wind farm, the wind turbines may need to have their output turned down at night to meet the noise limits.

The EPA expects that Verve Energy will consolidate and document the above commitments in the Noise Management Plan they are required to prepare in relation to Advice Note D of the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) planning approval.

### **b. Bird Strikes**

The proponent should continue to liaise with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) once the revised *Auswind Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Farm Projects in Australia* are released to ensure that the wind farm design is consistent with the principles of this document. It is recommended that

reflectors (bird diverters) are placed on the transmission line component of the proposal to reduce potential collisions. The proponent should also undertake comprehensive and ongoing monitoring of bird mortality to provide rigorous data on mortality rates, and make this publicly available.

The EPA expects the relevant decision-making authorities to consider and implement this advice through the approvals process. If you have any enquiries, please contact Amy Sgherza on 6467 5424.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Sutton  
Director  
Assessment and Compliance Division

18 October 2012

CC: Shire of Carnamah  
Shire of Coorow  
DEC District Office, Jurien