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Our ref: 9041054
Your ref:

Mr Andrew Durran
Executive Director
Taurus Energy Pty Ltd
Suite 104, 349 Pacific Highway
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Dear Mr Durran

Proposed Cullerin Wind Farm, Upper Lachlan Shire

I refer to your correspondence of 5th December 2005 which requested the Director-General's requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the above project.

The Director-General's Requirements are attached. The requirements have been developed in light of:

- the Department's draft guidelines "*Steps in the Part 3A Project Application Process*";
- the outcomes of the Planning Focus Meeting held on 10 November 2005; and
- the Project Application received from the Proponent.

The requirements have been prepared based on the information provided by **ngh**environmental, on behalf of Taurus Energy, in relation to the proposed project.

In respect of the Environmental Assessment to be submitted by Taurus Energy, the Department should be consulted at least one week prior to the lodgement of the Environmental Assessment to confirm the:

- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

The Environmental Assessment should focus on key issues associated with the likely environmental impacts of the project and associated mitigating measures and be compliant with the attached assessment requirements.

Once you have lodged the Environmental Assessment, the Department will consult with the relevant authorities to determine the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment. Following this review period, the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

You should keep the contact officer for this project, Rebecca Newman ((02) 9228 6340, rebecca.newman@dipnr.nsw.gov.au), up to date with the progress of preparation of the Environmental Assessment, and seek clarification of any issues that may be unclear or may arise during this process.

Yours sincerely

Yolande Stone
**A/Deputy Director General
as delegate for the Director General**

CULLERIN WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER PART 3A OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

Project	<p>The proposal consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ up to 16 wind turbines with a total generating capacity of up to 30 megawatts; ▪ three-bladed turbines, up to 46m long, mounted on 60-80 m high towers (total height of 100-126m from ground to blade tip); ▪ a sub-station and transmission connection linking the wind turbines to the existing Country Energy 132kV transmission system located on site; ▪ underground and overhead cabling to connect the turbines; ▪ access roads around the site for installation and maintenance of wind turbines.
Site	<p>Approximately 30 km west of Goulburn off the Hume Highway consisting of various lots: Lots 58, 183, 186, 218 in DP 754110 owned by Marjorie Ryan; Lots 32, 53, 55, 56, 130, 131, 155, 159 in DP 754110; Lot 62 in DP 813660; Lot 1 in DP 918753; Lot 1 in DP 126132; Lot 13 in DP 68079 owned by Paul Hannan; Lots 135, 148 in DP 754110; Lots 214, 220 in DP 750031 owned by Peter Foley; Lots 189, 192, 193 in DP 754110 owned by Foley Holdings P/L.</p>
Proponent	Taurus Energy
Date of Issue	9 January 2006
Date of Expiration	9 January 2008
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment must be prepared to a high technical and scientific standard and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a description of the proposal, including construction, operation, and staging; • an assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below; • justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits and impacts of the proposal; • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; and • certification by the author of the Environment Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading. <p>The Environmental Assessment should consider the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft NSW Wind Energy EIA Guidelines, Planning NSW (2002); • Upper Lachlan Council's DCP on Wind Power Generation (2005).

<p>Key Assessment Requirements</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment must include assessment of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Justification – the Environmental Assessment must include a clear demonstration of quantified and substantiated greenhouse benefits, taking into account the proposal’s capacity factor and identification of sources of electricity that could be realistically replaced and the extent of the replacement. • Visual Impacts – comprehensive assessment of the landscape character/values of the affected areas and the visual impact of the proposal on this landscape and on the existing and approved residences, particularly within 2 km of the turbines. Consideration should be given to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust’s draft issues paper <i>Wind Farms and Landscape Values</i>. <p>The assessment must also discuss/provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact of blade “flicker” and blade “glint” on existing and approved residences and road users (including road safety matters) within 2 km of the turbines; • “flicker vertigo” issues; • proposed mitigation measures, including screening, turbine layout and location; • photomontages of the proposal taken from strategic vantage points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and Fauna – the Environmental Assessment must address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities, and their habitats listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Fisheries Management Act 1997; • impact on birds and bats from strikes and alteration to movement patterns from the turbines and transmission lines. Assessment should consider the Australian Wind Energy Association’s publication <i>Assessing the Impacts on Birds – Protocols and Data Set Standards</i>. An outline of an adaptive management program should be provided; • vegetation clearing during construction and maintenance. <p>The threatened species assessment must generally be in accordance with the DEC’s <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i>. Where ecological offsets or compensation is proposed (eg compensatory habitat or rehabilitated areas), appropriate details of each offset option must be included in the Environmental Assessment, including implementation measures for each offset option.</p> • Archaeology/Cultural Heritage – the Environmental Assessment must address the potential impact on Aboriginal heritage values and items and must generally be in accordance with the DEC’s <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation</i>. • Operational Noise – comprehensive assessment of the noise impacts associated with the proposal (including ‘infrasound’) to be undertaken in accordance with the DEC’s <i>Industrial Noise Policy</i> and <i>Wind Farms – Environmental Noise Guidelines</i>, South Australian Environment Protection Authority (February 2003). If any Noise Agreements with residents are proposed for areas where noise criteria cannot be met, sufficient information should be provided to enable a clear understanding of what has been agreed, and what criteria have been used to frame any Agreements. • Bushfire Risk – the Environmental Assessment must address the potential for wind turbines to start/influence the pattern of bushfires, and include bushfire management strategies and measures in consultation with the Rural Fire Service and the local council. • Traffic and Transport – the Environmental Assessment must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify transport routes to and from the project site, including details of any
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	<p>proposed upgrading or construction of road/access to the site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the construction traffic impact of the project in terms of capacity and safety of these routes and potential damage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Values/Development Potential – assessment of the potential impact of the wind farm on surrounding land values, including a prediction of expected land value changes as a result of the development in the short and long term. Any consequences for development of surrounding land. • Community consultation – strategy for community consultation to keep affected landowners and communities involved and informed about the project, including proposed measures to address community concerns. • Services and Infrastructure – assessment of potential impact on aircraft and telecommunications, roads, bridges, rail crossings and electricity infrastructure, in liaison with relevant authorities. In reference to aircraft, the assessment should consider the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Guidelines Draft Advisory Circular AC 139-18(0), December 2005, <i>Obstacle Marking and Lighting of Wind Farms</i>. • Proposed substation and grid connection – discussion of connection agreements/approvals by Country Energy, including ownership and management of the connecting transmission line following construction. The implications (statutory and technical) of any shared arrangement of the site substation between the proposal and Gunning Wind Farm must be addressed. • Cumulative impact – assessment of the cumulative effects of the proposal having regards to existing or other proposed wind energy facilities in the area. • Decommissioning – discussion of the envisaged lifespan of the project and the Proponent's commitment, arrangements and necessary approvals for removal of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure at the end of the project's life.
<p>Consultation Requirements</p>	<p>You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Department of Environment and Conservation; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; • Upper Lachlan Council; • Rural Fire Service; • Country Energy; • Department of Primary Industries; • Department of Natural Resources; • Civil Aviation Safety Authority; • Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia; and • the local community. <p>The Environmental Assessment must clearly indicate issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, and how those matters have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>Deemed refusal period</p>	<p>Under clause 8E(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>, the applicable deemed refusal period is 120 days from the end of the proponent's environmental assessment period for the project.</p>