

# Collector Wind Farm proposal: Recommendation to approve.

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) has appointed three commissioners to review the recommendation by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure that the Collector wind farm project is “in the public interest” and should be approved, subject to various conditions. The PAC has delegated decision-making authority from the Minister of Planning and Infrastructure.

Commissioners Garry West (Chair), Richard Thorp and Brian Gilligan will hear submissions and comments from interested parties at a Public Meeting which will be held at **4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29th** at the **Collector Memorial Hall**, Bourke Street Collector. Please check the PAC website closer to the proposed meeting time in case there are any late changes.

Parties wishing to comment at the Meeting must register to speak by contacting **Rebeca Chungue** at PAC on **(02) 9383 2112 by 1 p.m. Thursday, October 24th**.

Following the Meeting, the PAC will make a final determination on the Project Application and, if approved, confirm the conditions of approval under which the wind farm can be constructed and operated.

Further details of the PAC’s role in reviewing RATCH Australia’s application, details of the Meeting, and a description of how the PAC operates will be available on these websites:

<http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/Projects/Current/tabid/102/Default.aspx>  
<http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/AboutUs/tabid/55/Default.aspx>

General enquiries on the Project should be addressed to:

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**RAC**

**RATCH-Australia Corporation**

## NSW Planning Assessment Commission

The NSW Planning Assessment Commission is constituted under Schedule 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and is an independent panel of experts in planning, architecture, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism, heritage or government and public administration.

Its key functions include:

- To determine applications for major developments under delegation from the Minister;
- To review any major development including conducting of public hearings; and
- To provide independent expert advice on planning and development matters.

In recent years the PAC has assessed a number of other wind farm projects. The Commission’s assessment decisions can be found by searching the Projects / PAC Determinations database on the website: <http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au>

These assessment reports detail the PAC’s investigations, analyses and conclusions on a range of matters for PAC determination, including health and environmental issues.



## Background to the Department's Conditional Approval

The Department completed its assessment of the Collector Wind Farm proposal in late-September. It has recommended approval of the Project Application for 63 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, subject to a series of conditions of approval and to RATCH Australia's Statement of Commitments.

The Department's assessment and recommendations can be found here: [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=3778](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=3778)

### What the Department said about the Proposal:

"The Department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the merits of the Project and considers that all environmental issues associated with the construction and operation of the wind farm have been addressed and that the Project can achieve an acceptable level of environmental performance through the application of stringent conditions of approval and the Proponent's Statement of Commitments to

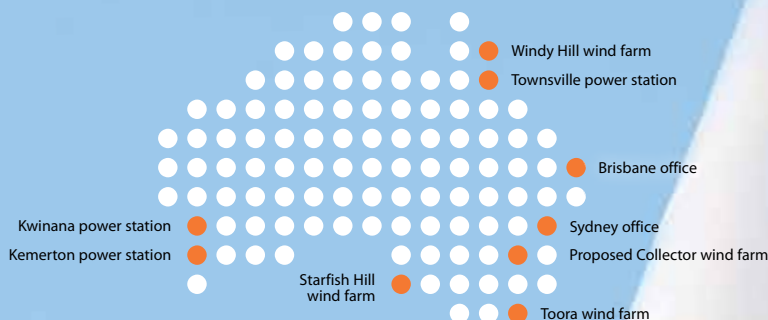
manage community concerns regarding amenity, health and environmental impacts.

The Department considers that the Project is justified and in the public interest and should be approved subject to the recommended conditions of approval and the Proponent's Statement of Commitments. The Project is referred to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination."

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### About RATCH-Australia

RATCH-Australia is an independent power producer. We own three thermal power stations in Australia (powered by coal or gas) and also three wind farms: Windy Hill in north Queensland, Toora in Victoria and Starfish Hill in South Australia. Our main offices are in Sydney and Brisbane. We are working on a range of wind and solar development projects including the proposed Collector Wind Farm.



### For more information

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