

ENERGY AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE SITING POLICY

Monday, 13 July 2009

PREAMBLE

The **Kanawinka Geopark Board**, as a matter of principle, supports renewable forms of energy generation and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, including wind-generating facilities, where a net environmental benefit can be clearly demonstrated.

The **Kanawinka Geopark Board** also strongly advocates the protection of significant natural and cultural Australian landscapes, and believes they should be protected from undesirable visual intrusion and other adverse impacts which can be associated with energy and communication infrastructure development (see end-note for definition).

In particular, the **Kanawinka Geopark Board** is concerned at the impact of inappropriately located wind turbine generators (WTGS), and other energy infrastructure facilities, on landscape values.

The **Kanawinka Geopark Board** urges the Victorian and South Australian State Governments to take a holistic approach to environmental policy development to ensure that all policy measures are of net benefit to the environment, and are not detrimental to any part of it.

POLICY

The **Kanawinka Geopark Board** believes:

Governance & Development Assessment

1. Energy and communication infrastructure proposals should be subject to the two State Government and Local Government development laws, requiring provisional planning approval, with full public notification, consultation and community appeal rights.
2. In the assessment of proposed energy infrastructure developments the relevant authority should require that an independent assessment of all landscape values be undertaken.

This assessment should take into account any pre-existing landscape classification which identifies landscapes of significant cultural, scientific, historical, social or aesthetic values. Authorities should be required to assess the potential impact of the proposed development, and make their decision, in relation to these assessments.

Cultural Heritage

3. Identified Heritage Places should be protected from undesirable intrusion by energy and communication infrastructure.
4. Potentially significant landscapes, scenic transport routes, character streetscapes, vistas or panoramas should be assessed so their landscape values can be identified and protected from intrusive energy and communications infrastructure.

Natural Heritage

5. The development associated with establishing energy and communication infrastructure should:
 - (a) retain significant vegetation on the subject sites;
 - (b) Not threaten significant remnant native vegetation or fauna.

National Parks, nature conservation areas and other ecologically and geologically sensitive places should be protected from potentially adverse impacts caused by energy and communication infrastructure.

End-Note - Definitions

Energy and Communication Infrastructure includes any pipelines, power lines, compressor stations, towers, structures, above-ground cables, power-generation stations, sub-stations, wind turbine generators and any ancillary buildings, structures, access roads, working platforms and fencing.

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