



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

\$190 MILLION WIND AND SOLAR FARM FOR THE UPPER HUNTER VALLEY

Tuesday 9 February, 2010

The NSW Government has approved plans for a \$190 million wind and solar farm – providing renewable power to more than 47,000 homes in the Upper Hunter Valley at Scone.

The *Kyoto Energy Park* will be constructed by Pamada Pty Ltd, with a generating 113 capacity of up to megawatts of renewable energy through:

- 34 wind turbines;
- A hydro electric generator using recycled water; and
- Up to 100 hectares of solar panels.

The facility will create 183 construction jobs and 12 ongoing jobs, and save 100s of thousands of tonnes of carbon.

“This is about harnessing the wind and the abundant sun of Australia,” Premier Kristina Keneally said.

“*Kyoto Energy Park* is a model for future power generation.

“The amount of energy created through renewable sources at this plant is equivalent of removing around 60,000 cars off the road a year.

“NSW would like to see more clean, green infrastructure projects like the *Kyoto Energy Park* - that support jobs and our low carbon economy.

“I am very pleased to see this project moving forward – it is part of the government’s plan to support reliable sources of renewable decentralised energy.

Since 2004, the NSW Government and councils have approved 17 wind farms with the potential to supply up to 2,926 megawatts of energy into the State’s electricity grid.

The Government has a package of planning policy reforms specifically designed to attract green investment and create green jobs across NSW through renewable energy projects (*see details below*).

Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, said the approval followed extensive community consultation

As a result of the consultation process, Pamada removed eight planned wind turbines that would have impacted on the community, environment and Scone Airport. This is in addition to five proposed turbines that were already removed from the initial proposal.

Mr Kelly said 67 conditions on the approval will limit its impact on the local environment and surrounding land owners. They include:

- Measures to limit noise impacts;
- Screen planting to limit visual impacts; and

- A management plan to minimise risk to local bird and bat species.

“This plan satisfies requirements with respect to noise management, visual impact, environmental conservation and impact on pre-existing local industry,” Mr Kelly said.

“As part of the approval, Pamada Pty Ltd will contribute more than \$86,000 per year towards a community enhancement fund,” Mr Kelly said.

“That fund will be operated by an independent steering committee, and will be used to support local infrastructure and community initiatives.”