



Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc.
Floor 2 191 Liverpool Street
Hobart TAS 7000 Australia

Phone: (03) 6234 3552
Fax: (03) 6231 2491
Tct6@bigpond.com

ABN 63091237

Referral Business Entry Point, EIA Policy Section (EPBC Act)
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

2 February 2009

NP Power Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply (renewable)/Between Waddamana township & the eastern shore of Lake Echo/TAS/Cattle Hill Wind Farm – Reference Number: 2009/4707

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust believes that the above project is a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on the basis that there is a high probability of significant impact on matters of national environmental significance, in particular listed threatened and migratory species.

The referral documents provided on your web site list thirteen threatened species, nine migratory species, eight listed marine species and one species covered by the Regional Forest Agreement located in the Wind Farm Operation Area. Of the twenty species listed in table 3.1 (pages 8-12), only four are identified as having nil likelihood of impact with the others having some level of likely impact.

Of particular note is the moderate-high risk of impact on the migratory white-bellied sea eagle and endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. It is acknowledged by the proponent that an active wedge-tailed eagle nest exists within the Wind Farm Operation Area and several others occur to nearby. This makes us extremely concerned about this proposal.

The Woolnorth Windfarm, the only major operating electricity generating windfarm in Tasmania, has a horrific record of eagles, particularly wedge-tailed eagles, colliding with turbines and being killed. The latest report is that fourteen eagles have been killed since it commenced operations.

If the Cattle Hill Wind Farm project is to proceed, every possible effort must be taken to ensure eagles do not collide with turbines and if they do, strict conditions must apply to reduce further death and injury, including permanent closure of individual high risk turbines. If the Tasmanian authorities had set such conditions for the Woolnorth Windfarm then far fewer eagles would have been killed.

With so many species that the proponent has admitted have a likelihood of some impact and two eagle species they admit have a moderate to high risk it would be prudent of for this project to be declared a controlled action and gain a fuller assessment by the Australian Government.

Yours sincerely,

Peter McGlone
Biodiversity Campaigner
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
0406 380 545