



WestWind
ENERGY

Golden Plains Wind Farm

LAGOON UPDATE

The Rokewood Lagoon Committee are working hard to raise funds for the much-needed new infrastructure for Rokewood Lagoon. Originally constructed in the 1950's by local returning servicemen, the Rokewood Lagoon is a vital facility and an important part of local history. For 50 years the lagoon has been the local spot for a leisurely dip in the cool water and for kids learning to swim.

The Rokewood Lagoon requires urgent improvements to the piping to ensure locals and visitors can enjoy the lagoon for many more years to come. The expected cost of these improvements is \$50-55,000!

To give this local treasure a boost, WestWind have committed to matching all donations for the lagoon works up to \$10,000!

So dive deep into your wallets and get your donations in to the Rokewood Lagoon Committee.

 Find out more about the lagoon at:
[facebook.com/rokewoodLagoon](https://www.facebook.com/rokewoodLagoon)



CONTACT US

We welcome the opportunity to speak with members of the local community, so please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any questions regarding the Golden Plains Wind Farm, or if you have any comments, concerns or feedback, contact:

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NEWSLETTER MAY / 2018 / ISSUE #3

WE HAVE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN 2018, AND WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON OUR GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM (GPWF) PLANNING APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT (EES).

WELCOME

We are now on public notice for the Golden Plains Wind Farm with an independent planning panel hearing expected to commence the end of July or early August. We anticipate a decision from the Planning Minister will be announced during the 4th quarter of the year.

The WestWind team have been busy working to complete the EES and planning application. It is a long and complex process involving many independent consultants addressing a myriad of technical disciplines surrounding the environmental and social impacts of constructing and operating the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

The team have also been busy engaging and supporting the local community. The CFA Thank You Day had a great turn out and there were many people in attendance that were excited to learn more about the wind farm. We have recently began collaborating with the Rokewood Lagoon Committee on their mission to raise \$50k to pay for new infrastructure, a project WestWind is delighted to support. We are also pleased to have contributed to the Rokewood Kindergarten's new garden fund and supported them in applying for further grants with Golden Plains Shire.

The team have been very busy engaging and supporting the local community.

EES UPDATE

For the past nine months the WestWind team have been working collaboratively with the community and a Technical Reference Group to complete an Environment Effects Statement (EES) as required by the Victorian Minister for Planning under the Environmental Effects Act 1978.

The EES describes the potential environmental effects of a proposed project, assesses relevant alternatives and outlines how WestWind Energy proposes to minimize and manage environmental effects. The EES process is administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy also determined that the Project was a controlled action requiring assessment and approval under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). (cont. on page 2)



GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM INDICATIVE TIMELINE



The referral decision specified that the Project would be assessed under the assessment bilateral agreement, which exists between the Commonwealth and Victorian governments. The EES process under the EE Act is the approved bilateral assessment process accepted for the Project.

The EES looks at impacts of the wind farm on the surrounding environment and community. The EES addresses issues such as vegetation, flora and fauna, water, the impact of noise, air quality and visual appearance of the site during construction and operation.

WestWind has put significant time and energy into ensuring that the development has as little effect on the environment and local community as possible. This is in line with the ethos of WestWind on similar developed projects: to generate clean energy for Victorians with as minimal disruption to the countryside as possible. There are significant design considerations that we have incorporated in the Golden Plains Wind Farm to minimise the impact and disruption to the environment and community. Further information and outcomes from the EES process can be found on our website.



CFA THANK YOU DAY

WestWind was proud to sponsor the CFA Thank You Day at Rokewood Memorial Hall in March. Thank you to everyone that took part in the fun day of sausages, face painting, fire safety, windmills and more!

We would also like to extend gratitude to the CFA volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to keeping us safe in times of emergency. We look forward to the next opportunity to support the organisations that support our community.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM OPEN DAY

We will be holding an Open Day for the Golden Plains Wind Farm at the Rokewood Memorial Hall on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 from 2pm to 8pm.

Come along to chat with our team about the wind farm and our progress to date. See our displays of wind farm maps and technical drawings, enjoy a cuppa and share your thoughts with us.

Your feedback is always appreciated. We hope to see you there!



HAVE YOUR SAY

The public notice period for the Golden Plains Wind Farm planning application and the Environment Effects Statement (EES) will run for 30 business days from 7th May. During this time, members of the public can view the EES and make written submissions.

At the end of this period, the Minister for Planning is expected to appoint a Joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to evaluate the effects of the Project, having regard to the EES, the planning permit application and public submissions. The IAC is likely to hold a formal hearing where the proponent and submitters can speak.

Submissions on the EES must be made in writing and received by 5:00pm on 18 June 2018.

Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged via an online form at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/>.

There is no minimum or maximum length for submissions, and all submissions will be considered equally. For assistance with the online submission form or other matters related to making a submission, contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

All planning documentation and EES information is available to download from:

<http://w-wind.com.au/golden-plains-wind-farm/eesplanning-process/>

To obtain copies of the Summary EES Report, contact WestWind on 5421 9999 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

Hard copies of full documentation are also available for purchase from WestWind Energy.

WestWind encourages you to be part of the process by submitting your thoughts to the committee. For more information on how to do this and guidance on how to write a submission, please feel free to contact us.