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MEDIA RELEASE

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Approval For The Golden Plains Wind Farm

Following the successful completion of the Environment Effects Statement, WestWind Energy welcomes the Federal Government approval under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (EPBC) for the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

This environmental approval follows the Planning Permit approval by the Victorian Minister for Planning, granted in January 2019.

The Planning Permit will enable the construction of up to 228 wind turbines south, east and west of Rokewood in the Golden Plains Shire. The project will create over 700 construction jobs in addition to over 70 direct operational jobs located in Victoria.

Importantly, using the most advanced wind energy technology, the Golden Plains Wind Farm will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 3 million tonnes annually and provide clean renewable energy to power the equivalent of more than 500, 000 Victorian homes.

The Environment Effects Statement and Planning Permit processes included a full review and public hearing by an independent Inquiry Panel. The Inquiry Panel recommended the approval of the Wind Farm subject to the inclusion of a turbine free buffer zone to better protect the Victorian Brolga population. Overall their findings concluded that the project will have a net community benefit and will make a significant contribution towards the sustainable development of the State.

WestWind Energy Managing Director Tobi Geiger said *"The EPBC approval of the project by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, is great news and paves the way for valuable investment into the Rokewood region. This project will provide the equivalent annual power output of 1/3 of the recently closed Hazelwood coal fired power generator, while providing drought proof income to host landholders. This, along with substantial community benefit programs, will ensure the local community and Victorians benefit directly from this project."*

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For more information about the Golden Plains Wind Farm please call Communications Manager, Erin Gray on (03) 5421 9999 or go to w-wind.com.au

More detail on the project can be found on our website:

www.w-wind.com.au