



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER / 2017 / ISSUE #2

Golden Plains Wind Farm

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF THE GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM PROJECT NEWSLETTER. THIS NEWSLETTER AIMS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT TO THE COMMUNITY SURROUNDING THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE. FURTHER EDITIONS WILL BE ISSUED THROUGH THE PROJECT LIFECYCLE TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON THE PROJECT.

Project Details

It has been a busy few months for the WestWind team as we head towards the end of 2017. We are excited to announce that we are making significant progress on our additional cultural heritage, flora, fauna, noise, shadow flicker, landscaping, aviation and EMI studies. Most of our assessments have been finalised, and are being reviewed by members of the Technical Reference Group (TRG). We are now busy preparing for an Independent Planning Panel to review the Golden Plains Wind Farm planning application and Environment Effects Statement (EES).

We anticipate that the development application and EES will go on public notice in the first quarter of next year with an indicative planning panel hearing date expected during the second quarter. Please note that these dates are still being finalised, and will be updated on our website and in local media once confirmed. This is an opportunity for the community to have their say on the development, and we encourage your participation.

Since our last newsletter we have held two open days, with more than 200 people in attendance. We would like to thank those who took this opportunity to find out more about the proposed development, and it's exciting to see the level of community interest in the project.

Most of those in attendance were supportive of the project and wanted to know how the development would help Victoria reach its renewable energy target. Others attended to obtain information on the community benefits; as well as discuss any potential traffic, visual and noise impacts to the local community.

Employment opportunities and potential environment effects were also a focus point. Many stakeholders were also eager to understand the ways WestWind is proposing to avoid, minimise and mitigate potential impact.

WestWind was pleased to be a major sponsor at this year's Rokewood Rodeo and enjoyed hosting the first Golden Plains Wind Farm Kids Zone. This was a fantastic day interacting with the community, with more than 400 kids enjoying the free amusements. We'd like to send out a huge thanks to the rodeo committee for making us feel welcome, and to all the operators who worked in the kids zone to make it a fantastic day.

We have also completed several updates to our website (w-wind.com.au). You will now find a site layout map for the proposed development available for download, along with additional information on the proposed quarry (further details inside). As always, if you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

WestWind Energy would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year!



GOLDEN PLAINS WIND FARM INDICATIVE TIMELINE

2016 Site Selection

- Landholder commitment and option agreement
- Site boundary confirmed
- Wind monitoring
- Indicative turbine layout

2016-2017 Project Feasibility

- Optimisation of turbine layout
- Environmental studies
- Planning studies
- Grid studies
- Cultural Heritage
- Visual impact studies

2017-2018 Environment/Planning Approval

- Planning permit application
- Community consultation
- EES Process
- Noise and shadow flicker

2018-2019 Detail Assessment and Finance

- Design and drawings
- Project costings
- Securing investment
- Pre-construction approvals

2019-2021 Construction and Operation

- Ground breaking
- Civil and electrical works
- Turbine install and commissioning

Onsite Quarry

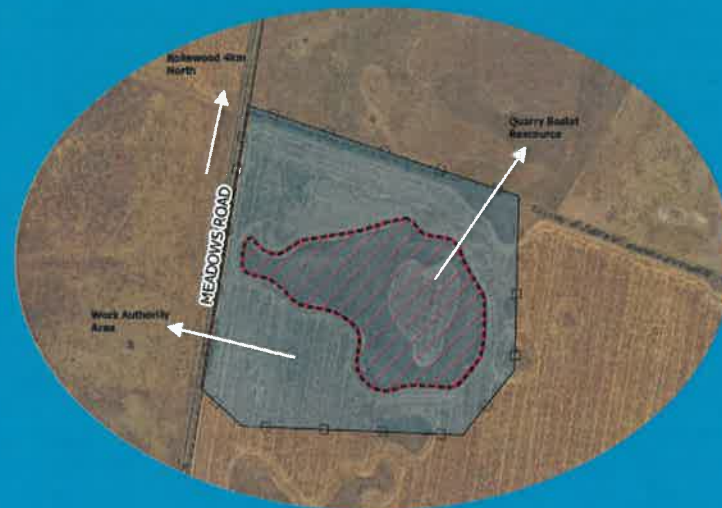
WestWind Energy is proposing to establish a temporary quarry within the Golden Plains Wind Farm site boundary to supply crushed rock for use during construction. Following preliminary technical, social and economic assessments a site has been identified on farm land approximately 4 km south of Rokewood, immediately east of Meadows Road.

The quarry will provide large amounts of crushed rock and bulk fill material required to construct the wind farm, and will remain operational during the wind farm construction. The material is required for the access track network, hardstands, wind turbine foundations and for repair and possibly remediation of local roads.

In previous large scale infrastructure projects, the transport of materials caused impact to local roads. Having the quarry material available within the project site will minimise this impact and decrease the quantity of truck movements on the public road network, particularly outside of the immediate project vicinity.

The establishment and operation of the quarry will be in accordance with a Work Plan and Work Authority. The Work Plan is a legal requirement for a quarry under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and is approved by the Minister for Resources. The Work Plan outlines the quarry's proposed processing methods, stability requirements, environmental management program and approach to rehabilitation.

The quarry and all other elements of the Golden Plains Wind Farm are subject to a full assessment under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. Given the high level scrutiny of assessment, a separate planning permit is not required for the quarry, however, the quarry will require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.



The proposed quarry will include the following features:

- A quarry pit to cater for the volume of basalt required;
- A water dam;
- Internal quarry access tracks;
- Overburden and top soil storage areas;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Crushing and screening; and
- Site office, car parking, workshop and amenities.

The quarry has been designed as a shallow pit to allow extraction near the surface in consideration of the groundwater table and to support rehabilitation back to farmland.

Positioning of the quarry has also considered landscape amenity, native vegetation and waterways, while allowing for a large number of wind turbines to be accessed from the quarry without using public roads.

For more information on the proposed quarry, including how we will address noise, air quality, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, groundwater and blasting, visit to our website: w-wind.com.au



Sponsorships

WestWind Energy is proud to support a number of community initiatives including:

- *Rokewood-Corindhap Football Netball Club
- *Down Under Extreme Cowboys

- *Rokewood Kindergarten
- *Rokewood Primary School

- *Rokewood Cricket Club
- *Rokewood Rodeo

EES Update

In our last project newsletter we advised that WestWind would be required to complete an Environment Effects Statement (EES) based on the Planning Minister's determination that the project could have the potential to effect critically endangered native vegetation communities and species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Following this EES decision, our team and consultants have been meeting regularly with a Technical Reference Group, which consists of government agencies, local government and statutory authorities, established by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. These meetings provide a platform to determine scoping requirements, share technical project information, and allow the reference group members to provide feedback and guidance on the project to ensure the project has as minimal impact as possible.

Public comment on the draft scoping requirements for the EES was sought in October. Public comment has now closed, and we are pleased to reveal that only two submissions were received. Each of the submissions will help form the final scoping requirements for the EES. Currently, the Technical Reference Group is being presented information by subject experts and is diligently reviewing detailed specialist reports on native vegetation, as well as visual, social, flora, fauna, noise, heritage, traffic and quarry impacts and providing feedback on the project design. West-Wind continues to work constructively with the reference group to design the project with as minimal as impact as commercially viable.

The EES and the Golden Plains Wind Farm planning application will go on public exhibition followed by a combined enquiry and panel hearing in the first half of 2018. Once an EES and panel hearing is complete, the state Planning Minister will provide his decision on the development.

Have Your Say

We expect to go on public notice for the Golden Plains Wind Farm planning application and the Environment Effects Statement (EES) in the first quarter of 2018.

It is during this time that there will be opportunities for the community to provide feedback about the project and to have your say on the development.

All submissions made by the community will then be considered by an Independent Planning Panel, appointed by the state Planning Minister to review the wind farm proposal.

If you would like to be informed of when the notice period is to begin, please email ricci@w-wind.com.au
For more information on the EES and planning process, go to our website: w-wind.com.au

ROKEWOOD RODEO



This year WestWind Energy was one of the major sponsors of the Rokewood Rodeo. We are proud to be associated with this event and were pleased to have the opportunity to organise the Golden Plains Wind Farm kids zone. The day was a huge hit with kids of all ages and provided us with yet another opportunity to support the community. Thank you to everyone who attended and a shout out to all who worked to make this day a success.



Natural Energy—Done with The Wind

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 issues, concerns or feedback, contact:

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Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Phone: 03 5421 9944. Email: ricci@w-wind.com.au

If you prefer not to receive updates on the wind farm, please call (03) 5421 9999, and we will remove you from the list.

For more information on WestWind Energy go to w-wind.com.au or stay up-to-date via our Facebook page: facebook.com/westwindenergy

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