

LAL LAL WIND FARM PROJECT UPDATE 5



This Project Update was first issued by WestWind Energy in September 2008

This is the fifth Project Update from WestWind Energy to provide you with further information about our Lal Lal Wind Farm proposal. You have received this because you are on our stakeholder database.

Please contact us if we do not have your correct contact details or if you know of anyone who has not received a copy of this Project Update but would like to. (Please refer to the back page for contact details)

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLANNING PANEL APPOINTED

Directions Hearing will be on Monday 22nd September 2008.
Main Hearing will be from Wednesday 5th November 2008.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN LODGED

The sub-surface testing of the site has been completed and a complex Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been prepared and lodged with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria for endorsement.

NEW STAFF JOIN WESTWIND ENERGY

Several new staff have joined WestWind Energy – we now have a team of twelve.

PLANNING PANEL APPOINTED TO CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS

WestWind Energy lodged a Planning Permit Application (PPA) with the Minister for Planning for the Lal Lal Wind Farm in March 2008. The application and reports were then publicly exhibited up until early August 2008. Now that the exhibition period is complete and submissions have been received, the Minister for Planning has appointed a Planning Panel to consider our planning permit application and provide him with recommendations before he makes a determination of our application.

The role of the panel is to:

- ▲ Give submitters an opportunity to be heard by an independent forum.
- ▲ Give independent advice to the Minister about the planning permit application.

The Hearing process is in two stages and will follow a clear and structured format, beginning with a Directions Hearing followed by the Main Hearing.

The Hearings are open to the public but to be heard by the Panel you must have made a submission to the Minister for Planning and completed a '*request to be heard*' application.

The Directions Hearing will be held on Monday 22nd September, 2008 commencing at 11am at
"Sails on the Lake",
Ballarat Yacht Club,
Wendouree Parade, Lake Wendouree.

Those who have made a submission to the Minister for Planning should have already received notification of the Directions Hearing. For more information about Planning Panels please contact Planning Panels Victoria (Tel: 03 9637 9690).

You can view or download all of our planning permit application report documents and obtain further information by visiting our website and viewing the Lal Lal Wind Farm Downloads Page.

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DIRECTIONS HEARING

The purpose of the Directions Hearing will be to:

- ▲ Introduce the Panel;
- ▲ Consider any matters of a preliminary nature;
- ▲ Identify any changes proposed to the exhibited Application;
- ▲ Clarify the issues that are in contention;
- ▲ Consider timetable issues;
- ▲ Give directions about the conduct of the hearing;
- ▲ Give directions about the exchange of information before the hearing;
- ▲ Answer any questions people may have about the nature of the hearing;
- ▲ Deal with any other procedural or relevant matters; and
- ▲ Make arrangements for the hearing, including the hearing venue and site inspections.

MAIN HEARING

The Main Hearing gives people an opportunity to be heard in support of their submission. This hearing will commence from Wednesday 5th November, 2008 at “*Sails on the Lake*”.

The Main Hearing may run for several days or weeks depending on the amount of time requested by parties to the hearing. The schedule will be confirmed at the Directions Hearing.

The general order of the Main Hearing is likely to be:

- ▲ Department of Planning and Community Development on behalf of the Minister for Planning;
- ▲ The Proponent (WestWind Energy)
- ▲ Other Government Departments/Agencies
- ▲ Councils
- ▲ Community Groups
- ▲ Individual submitters

COMPLEX CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since lodging our planning permit application report in March 2008, the sub-surface testing of the Site for items of aboriginal cultural heritage significance has been completed. As a result of the findings of this work some wind turbines and access tracks have had to be moved slightly (by between 20m and 100m) so that we can avoid some artefact scatters as much as possible.

A “Complex Cultural Heritage Management Plan”, which builds on the original “Standard Cultural Heritage Management Plan”, has now been lodged with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria is currently reviewing our new draft of the plan to ensure it complies with the Cultural Heritage Act. They will need to endorse the plan before any determination can be made under the Planning and Environment Act on the Planning Permit Application itself.

It is expected that the complex Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be endorsed prior to commencement of the Main Hearings in November 2008. Once it comes into effect it will govern our management of aboriginal cultural heritage throughout the life of the project.

NEW STAFF

WestWind Energy is pleased to welcome several new employees to our Company. We now have a total of twelve people working in our two offices in Buninyong & Riddells Creek and soon at our Mt Mercer Wind Farm site-office.

Contact details for all our staff and location details of our offices are on our website.

Phil Burn

- ▲ Project Developer (Riddells Creek)

Stephen Crowe

- ▲ Project Manager (Buninyong & Mt Mercer)

Russell Matchett

- ▲ Project Development Engineer (Riddells Creek)

Melanie Robertson

- ▲ Project Development Engineer (Buninyong)

FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACTING WESTWIND ENERGY

WestWind Energy posts key information, including the reports of our specialist studies, on its web site.

If you have a specific question or concern that you would like to raise with us or would simply like to be added to our mailing list please do not hesitate to contact us via our Buninyong Office.

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