

# LAL LAL WIND FARM PROJECT UPDATE 1



*This Project Update was first issued by WestWind Energy April 2007*

This is the first project update from WestWind Energy to provide you with further information about our Lal Lal Wind Farm project.

You have received this because you occupy or own land within 3 km of the project boundary, have expressed an interest in our project or hold a stake in or around our project site.

We intend to issue a number of these Project Updates over the coming months as new information comes to hand.

If you know of anyone who has not received a copy of this Project Update but would like to, please have them contact us (please refer to the back page for contact details).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION 1

WestWind Energy will be conducting a Community Information Session in April 2007.

Date: **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

Time: **from 2 pm through to 8 pm**

Place: **Lal Lal Community Hall**, Clarendon Road Lal Lal

This is an informal session and you can come along whenever it suits your schedule. See inside for details.

## INDICATIVE LAYOUT RELEASED

WestWind Energy has prepared its first release of the layout of the wind farm (Indicative Layout).

A copy is enclosed. We are seeking your response at the Community Information Session

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

WestWind Energy is investigating the potential for the construction of a wind farm consisting of approximately 70 to 80 wind turbines in the vicinity of Lal Lal. We have not lodged a planning permit application but hope to do so before the end of 2007. We are still at the early stages of developing the design of the wind farm.

The project is split into two sections - one just north of Elaine and the other east of Yendon. The map overleaf shows the outer boundary of the Site at each section.

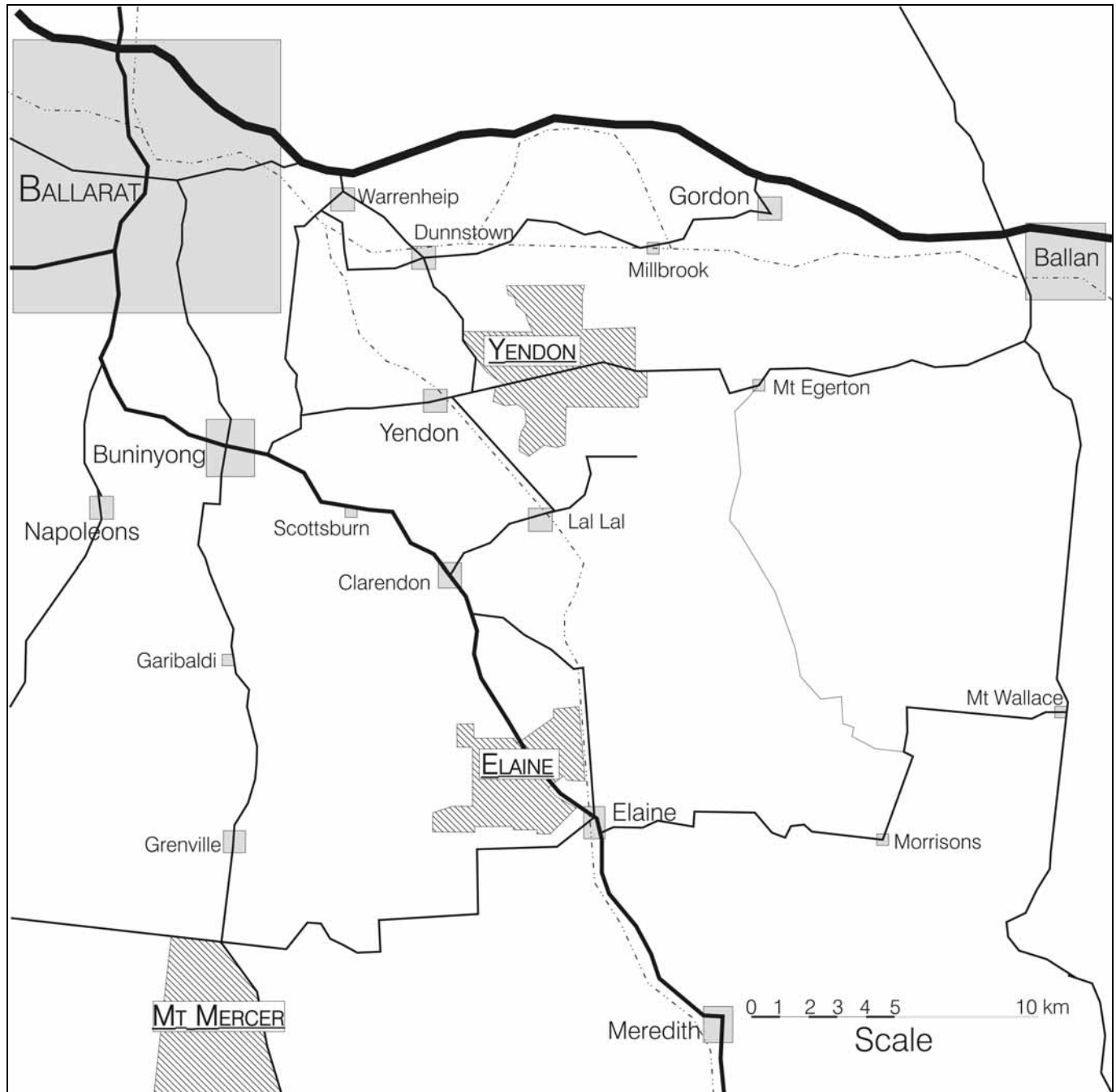
The wind turbines will be mounted on towers 80 to 100 m high and have a rotor diameter of 70 to

95 m. The maximum blade tip height will be up to 150 m above ground level or less.

Each will have a rated capacity of approximately 2 to 3 megawatts (MW). So if there are eighty 2 MW wind turbines the total capacity of the wind farm will be 160 MW. A wind farm of this size will produce electricity equivalent to the annual consumption of 92,000 average Victorian households (there are about 35,000 homes in the City of Ballarat).

This would displace more than 637,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year it operates or about 16 million tonnes over its 25 year life.

## REGIONAL MAP



## INDICATIVE LAYOUT

WestWind Energy has recently prepared the first public layout showing indicative locations for the wind turbines within the Site (the '*Indicative Layout*'). A copy of the Indicative Layout is provided as the centre pull-out section of this Project Update.

It is important to note that the Indicative Layout is merely a starting point in the design process. We are interested in your constructive ideas and suggestions on how we might be able to improve the design of our project. This will be used to refine the layout of the wind farm over the next

few months along with the feedback we receive from our specialist studies, referral authorities and other stakeholders. Consequently the layout may change dramatically in future releases.

At this stage only the location of the wind turbines are shown. The location of access tracks and underground cabling will be added as the layout comes closer to its final form.

Larger versions of these maps and aerial photographs will be on display at the Information Session to be held in April 2007 at Lal Lal.

---

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

WestWind Energy invites members of the public to its first Community Information Session for the Lal Lal Wind Farm project to be held at the

**Lal Lal Community Hall**  
**on**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007.**

This is an informal session running from 2 pm to 8 pm. There are no formal presentations so you can come and visit us whenever it suits you.

We will have a number of items on display including site maps, the Indicative Layout, aerial photographs of the site and samples of the photomontages that we will prepare later for this project. There will also be information that you can take home with you to read at your leisure. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

If you are unable to attend this information session the information will also be available on our web site for downloading. We are also interested in hearing your suggestions for days of the week and locations that might suit you better for other information sessions we will hold in the future.

---

## SPECIALIST STUDIES

By the time WestWind Energy lodges a planning permit application for the Lal Lal Wind Farm project later this year, we hope to have a thorough understanding of the project site and its surrounds. To achieve this, a range of specialist studies will be undertaken by independent consultants or by WestWind Energy.

These studies will address issues such as (but not limited to);

- ⤴ Plants
- ⤴ Animals
- ⤴ Birds & bats
- ⤴ Landscape & Visual Impact assessment
- ⤴ Cultural Heritage
- ⤴ Noise
- ⤴ Shadow Flicker & Blade Glint
- ⤴ Communications (e.g. TV & Radio)
- ⤴ Traffic Management & Road Safety
- ⤴ Aviation Safety

WestWind will publish the reports of these studies as they become available and they will also be included in the planning report that goes with the planning permit application itself.

---

## HAVE YOU SEEN A WIND FARM?

WestWind Energy realises that some people within the local community may not have visited one of the five operating wind farms in Victoria but that your interest may have been peaked by our proposal for a wind farm in your area. A visit to an operating wind farm may provide you with a better appreciation of what is involved.

We are proposing a bus trip to visit the Challicum Hills Wind Farm (near Ararat) or Codrington Wind Farm (near Port Fairy) on a Sunday in late April or early May 2007.

The bus will depart from Buninyong early in the morning and we would be away all day. We hope to spend a couple of hours at the wind farm so that you can get a good appreciation of how it operates.

If you would like to come along you MUST register your interest with us at the community information session on 18<sup>th</sup> April, or by contacting us by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

---

## CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

WestWind Energy is committed to consulting with a wide range of stakeholders in the development and operation of its projects. The local community members around our projects are particularly important stakeholders for us.

WestWind Energy commenced its community consultation in December 2006 when we visited the residences close to the wind farm site. This door-to-door visiting allowed us to let nearby residents know about our conceptual plans, find out where people live around the site and obtain some initial feedback from the local community.

We have now prepared the *Indicative Layout* for the Lal Lal Wind Farm project. We hope that this first layout will provide a more tangible idea of the scope of our proposal and elicit constructive feedback from members of the local community.

The ideas and suggestions that we receive from the local community (and other stakeholders) will then be used to prepare a Revised Layout. We will conduct another Community Information Session (probably August 2007) to obtain your further response. This will allow us to further modify the design so that we can prepare our Proposed Layout which will form the basis of our planning permit application.

Our planning permit application will be accompanied by a detailed Planning Report

which provides a comprehensive description of the Site and the issues relevant to our Proposal.

Typically the Planning Report is a very large and detailed document. This is put on formal exhibition for several weeks so that anyone who chooses to do so can make a submission to the Responsible Planning Authority, either against or in support of our planning permit application.

WestWind Energy appreciates that this can be daunting for people not familiar with wind farms or the planning process. So we will conduct a third Community Information Session (probably in December 2007) to provide you with an opportunity to become familiar with the Proposed Layout and our final Proposal. You will also be able to obtain clarification directly from us on issues you might be particularly interested in.

This will be followed by the formal public consultation process conducted by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) on behalf of the Minister for Planning. Typically this involves a call for written submissions from the public in response to our application for a planning permit. The Minister would then arrange for Panels Victoria to convene an independent Planning Panel to consider our planning permit application and the written submissions received.

Those who have made a written submission are then invited to make a presentation directly to the Panel. The Panel conduct their review as they see fit but at the end of their work they present a report to the Minister for Planning so that he can make his determination to issue or refuse a planning permit for our project.

---

## TIME LINE OF KEY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- ✧ **Initial Door Knock (Dec 2006 to Mar 2007)**
  - Advise community of our intentions.
  - Seek views to allow preparation of Indicative Layout in response to key issues.
- ✧ **Information Session 1 (Apr 2007)**
  - Launch Indicative Layout and seek ideas & suggestions from all Stakeholders.
  - Feedback used to allow for preparation of Revised Layout.
- ✧ **Information Session 2 (approx. Aug 2007)**
  - Launch Revised Layout and seek response, ideas & suggestions from Stakeholders to allow preparation of Proposed Layout and the Planning Report.
- ✧ **Planning Permit Application Lodged (approx. Oct 2007)**
  - Application lodged with DSE to allow for formal exhibition of planning documents
  - Call for written submissions issued approximately Nov 2007.
- ✧ **Information Session 3 (approx. Dec 2007)**
  - During formal exhibition of the planning documents, to provide you with ready access to maps and documents to assist in your review of our formal Proposal.
- ✧ **Planning Panel Hearings & Determination by Minister for Planning(2008)**
  - Minister for Planning convenes Planning Panel to review submissions and conduct public hearing to hear evidence and verbal presentations, etc.
  - Minister for Planning determines to issue or refuse a Planning Permit after reviewing the recommendation report of the Planning Panel.

---

## FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACTING WESTWIND ENERGY

WestWind Energy will endeavour to keep you informed of key issues through a series of Project Updates like this one. We will also post information on our web site ([www.westwind-energy.com](http://www.westwind-energy.com)) including the reports of our specialist studies.

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 Project Manager.

Grant Flynn, Project Manager  
Telephone: .....04 1988 3799  
Email:.....[Flynn@w-wind.de](mailto:Flynn@w-wind.de)

WestWind Energy  
PO Box 667  
Buninyong VIC 3357  
Web: ..... [www.westwind-energy.com](http://www.westwind-energy.com)