# Wind News

## June 2012

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to the latest edition of WestWind Energy's Wind News.

This issue provides an update on both our Lal Lal and Moorabool wind farm projects.

We are also in the early stages of forming Community Advisory Committees and will soon be asking for expressions of interest. More information on our projects, and on wind energy, can be found on our website: www.w-wind.com.au

Should you have any questions regarding our projects, or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact WestWind Energy on 5421 9999, or send us an email to Reception@w-wind.com.au

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#### Project Update: Lal Lal Wind Farm

As we near construction, WestWind has prepared a series of development and management plans for the Yendon section of the Lal Lal Wind Farm. These have been approved by the Minister for Planning.

Management Plans such as the Environmental Management Plan and Landscaping Plan, were developed in consultation with Moorabool Shire Council and Vic Roads. The Emergency Response Plan was developed in consultation with the Country Fire Authority, Police, Ambulance and State Emergency Services. Plans to demonstrate compliance with the planning permit conditions have also been prepared and approved.

In April 2012, WestWind Energy commenced work under its native vegetation removal permit by fencing an offset area in preparation for re-vegetation. The aim of the offset area is to increase the amount and quality of native vegetation on the wind farm site.

This is in response to the unavoidable removal of small amounts of native vegetation from roadsides where crossovers will need to be widened.

The offset area is relatively small (1 acre) as the wind farm was specifically designed to avoid the removal of native vegetation where possible.



#### Project Update: Moorabool Wind Farm

The Moorabool Wind Farm is located approximately 5kms south of Ballan.

The wind farm proposal was considered by an independent planning panel in mid-2010 and was approved by the Department of Planning and Community Development on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The planning permit contains 22 pages of conditions for the project to comply with. These conditions ensure that acceptable standards are met with regard to protection of flora & fauna; protection of water quality; traffic management during construction; road improvements before and after construction; emergency response; sound levels; and de-commissioning of the project.

WestWind's focus over the coming weeks and months will be to prepare material to address planning permit conditions, secure grid connection and to progress various commercial matters.

As yet, we are not in a position to make any announcements on a likely construction start date.

#### Local Benefits

The aim of our projects is to supply renewable electricity to the national electricity grid to meet current and future electricity demands, whilst at the same time reducing carbon emissions.

The wind farms will be constructed on a land area comprising less than 1% of the host site, and are expected to employ approximately 130 full-time equivalent jobs during at least 3 years of construction, with another 40 fulltime, on-going positions to operate the projects. The Moorabool Shire will receive in the vicinity of \$370,000 indexed to CPI each year in municipal charges for the life of the project.

The wind farms will also contribute to a yearly community development fund to assist with local initiatives and programs.

Much of the additional income received by host landholders of these farming businesses will be spent locally.

### Community Advisory Committees – Expressions of Interest

WestWind will soon be calling for expressions of interest from community members to participate on Community Advisory Committees for the Lal Lal Wind Farm and the Moorabool Wind Farm. The Community Advisory Committees will consider matters of relevance to the community, including recommendations on the allocation of the community development fund.

Further details will be announced shortly.

#### **Did You Know That?**

- Our projects are not subsidised by taxpayers.
- Wind generated electricity already accounts for 26% of South Australia's electricity.
- China, USA, Germany and Spain are the countries with the largest amounts of installed wind energy capacity.

For more information on wind energy or our projects, please visit our website: <u>www.w-wind.com.au</u>



For information purposes, the map below illustrates the location of both the Lal Lal and Moorabool Wind Farms.

