

DRYSDALE WIND FARM

Project Update: March 2007

The Victorian Government has recently passed the *Victorian Renewable Energy Target* which requires electricity retailers to purchase 10% of their energy from renewable sources by 2016. This policy forms part of the *Our Environment, Our Future - Sustainability Action Statement 2006* and is expected to provide significant scope for the expansion of renewable energy in Victoria, including wind farms. Groundwork for the expansion of Victorian wind farms has already been set with the publication of the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria*. This document provides a comprehensive framework to ensure that wind farm proposals are assessed against a set of stringent guidelines taking into account all environmental, economic, social and cultural considerations in full consultation with the community.

BACKGROUND

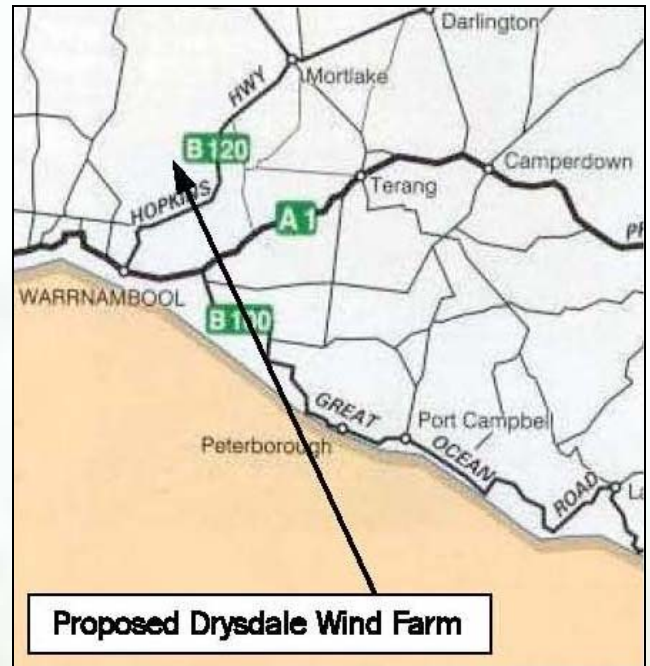
Drysdale Wind Farm (DWF) is a subsidiary of Wind Farm Developments (WFD) which was formed to develop, project manage, commission and operate utility scale wind farm developments in Australia and New Zealand. WFD has offices in Melbourne and Wellington, and is investigating projects on both sides of the Tasman. WFD secured development approval in May 2003 for the 91 MW Wattle Point Wind Farm currently operating in South Australia, and the 42MW Naroghid Wind farm near Cobden in south west Victoria in August 2006.

THE PROJECT

The proposed wind farm site is approximately 18 km inland from the coast and 20km from the nearest National or State park. Located in the Shire of Moyne about 17km northeast of Warrnambool, the project site (approximately 800 ha) consists of cleared agricultural land primarily used for sheep and cattle grazing.

It is anticipated that 13-15 wind turbines, totalling up to 29.9MW, could be accommodated at the site.

Each turbine will be up to 135 metres in height to the tip of the blade. The tower and nacelle is expected to be up to 90m high, and the blades up to 50m long. The turbines would typically be spaced 400 - 600m apart.



Map adapted from VicRoads

A feasibility analysis has confirmed that the site:

- Has a very good wind resource
- Has been extensively cleared and is of low sensitivity in terms of ecologically significant flora and fauna
- Is an area of low population density
- Lacks significant or unique landscape features
- Is adjacent to a 66kV line which will accommodate the wind farm's output.

The electricity generated would be supplied directly into the 66kV network providing pollution free electricity for south western Victoria.

BENEFITS

The wind farm will produce electricity for up to 17,000 households and displace the equivalent of up to 92,000** tonnes of CO₂ per annum. The capital cost of the wind farm is estimated at \$65m with a significant portion of this amount to be spent in Victoria.

PROJECT TIMETABLE

A 50 metre mast with anemometers (wind measuring equipment) was erected on site in January 2005. Over two years of wind data has now been collected and analysed.

DRYSDALE WIND FARM

An extensive summer native flora and fauna survey was undertaken during December 2004. The conclusion of this study confirmed that the site has low habitat potential for, and therefore low risk to, endangered or migratory bird species. Approval from the Commonwealth Government pursuant to the Environment Protection Biodiversity & Conservation Act was obtained in February 2005. A spring bird survey was also conducted in September, 2006 and again, no nationally or state threatened bird species were sighted.

As the proposed wind farm is under 30MW, Moyne Shire will be the responsible authority for assessing the wind farm proposal. The proposed wind farm will be assessed against the State Government's comprehensive *Policy and Planning Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria*. Detailed technical and environmental studies to assess the effects of noise, visual, cultural and ecological values from the wind farm are being completed in accordance with the above guidelines.

A Community Open Day for the project will be held in the Purnim Hall on March 28th. The planning application for the project is likely to be lodged in the 2nd Quarter of 2007.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact:

Drysdale Wind Farm Pty Ltd
c/- Wind Farm Developments Pty Ltd
608/31 Spring Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Tel: 03 9639 9290

Fax: 03 9639 3146

Email: enquiries@windfarmdevelopments.net

Web: www.drysdalewindfarm.com

Please see www.auswea.com.au
for more information on wind farms.

*Calculations according to Appendix 1 of Policy and Planning Guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria.

**Calculations according to *Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Abatement from Wind Farms in Victoria*, Report to Sustainability Victoria, July 2006



Proposed Site for the Drysdale Wind Farm

DRYSDALE STATISTICS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Electrical Capacity | Up to 29.9 Megawatts |
| Annual Generation | 92,000 MWh* |
| Homes Powered | Over 17,000* |
| Annual Greenhouse Gas Abatement | 92,000 tonnes CO ₂ ** |
| Equivalent Cars Removed from the road | Over 21,000* |

