

Silverton Wind Farm is a proposal for up to 598 wind turbines on the Barrier Ranges north of Silverton and 24 km north west of Broken Hill in the far west of NSW. This newsletter provides an update on the progress of the wind farm.

Silverton Wind Farm Developments (SWFD) – A Snapshot

Up to 598 turbines to be installed over an area 15km x 30km (30,000 Ha)

- Potential capacity in excess of 1,000MW
- Biggest wind project in Australia and amongst the biggest worldwide with estimated annual generation in excess of 3,500GWh
- Potential to provide significant employment and investment opportunities in the region and the state
- ~4.5% of total NSW electricity demand
- Potential to put NSW on the world's renewable energy map.

Connecting the wind farm

In progressing the electrical connection studies for the Silverton Wind Farm it became clear that the transmission line from Buronga to Broken Hill was built with a higher capacity than is currently in use. The development team has therefore been working to determine the most effective transmission line voltage and therefore size of the first and subsequent construction stages for the wind farm.

Connection studies are showing promising results and after 7 months of refining and upgrading our estimates of transmission connection capacity, we will soon be ready to finalise this work.

Renewable Energy Certificates

While this connection work has been underway other external factors have been having an impact on other wind farm projects in Australia. Over the last 3 months the media has been reporting on the low price of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and its impact on large scale renewable energy projects across Australia.

The Government's announcement on 26 Feb that the Renewable Energy Target (RET) would be enhanced to accelerate large scale renewable energy projects is a welcome development.



Greg Combet's recent RET changes announcement was welcomed.

Source:
www.climatechange.gov.au/minister/combet_a_spx



Silverton Wind Farm
– a computer generated representation

RECs are created under the RET which is the mechanism created by the Government to ensure that the lowest cost renewable energy is supplied to the grid around Australia.

Renewable energy for NSW on a big scale

New South Wales as the most populous state in Australia has the largest requirement for renewable energy. Currently in NSW there is only 187MW of installed wind capacity with 140MW of this reserved to power the Sydney desalination plant. That leaves Cullerin Range 30MW, Blayney 9.9MW, Crookwell 4.8MW and Hampton 1.2MW, a total of 45.9MW to provide wind energy to the customers of NSW.

Silverton Wind Farm can deliver much needed renewable energy to NSW and at the same time support regional development and capture the benefit of home-grown RECs.



Sponsorship

Silverton Wind Farm Developments Pty Ltd (SWFD) is pleased to be a sponsor of the region's biggest social event – the St Pat's Races.

SWFD looks forward to working with the people of Silverton and Broken Hill in the realisation of the iconic Silverton Wind Farm.

Valuable resource

Meanwhile the wind continues to blow and high wind speeds continue to be measured, with the anemometers on the 11 masts on the site confirming the excellent wind resource of this wind farm.



View from the top of a Silverton Wind Monitoring Mast taken by a maintenance worker.

Inquiry into Rural Wind Farms

The Parliament of NSW recently held an Inquiry into the social, environmental and economic costs of rural wind farms. The public were invited to participate and 109 public submissions were received by the Standing Committee.

The first of three public hearings was held on 11 September 2009 in Sydney at which **Epuron Executive Directors Martin Poole and Andrew Durran** addressed the Committee, and answered questions put to them by the committee.

A full transcript can be found on the NSW Parliament site www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Schedule

At this time SWFD is not able to confirm the expected time line for the construction of the wind farm. We are working hard to complete the current studies of the grid connection. More news will be provided as soon as it is available. Please keep an eye on our website for updates.

Work on site

Shortly work will begin on surveying the transmission line easement from Broken Hill to the wind farm.

Our contractors periodically visit each wind monitoring mast to carry out inspections and routine maintenance.

Looking for work?

Until the grid connection work is completed, the tender process for wind turbine supply and the construction works cannot be finalised, and the one or more contracts cannot be awarded for these works.

Once these contracts are in place, SWFD will make an announcement providing information about the successful suppliers and sub- contractors. In the meantime individuals and companies interested in working on the wind farm can register an interest with Business Broken Hill at admin@businessbrokenhill.com.au.

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SWFD is a joint venture between Epuron Pty Ltd and Macquarie Capital Wind Fund Pty Ltd which is an investment fund jointly owned by Macquarie Capital Group Limited and a subsidiary of Martifer Renewables SGPS S.A.

