

Introduction

Silverton Wind Farm Developments has now completed the first part of the environmental and engineering investigation for the Silverton Wind Farm, and has submitted an Environmental Assessment seeking project approval to the NSW Department of Planning.

This newsletter provides an update on the progress of the project and describes the next steps in the planning process. In particular, it outlines the details of the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment and invites the community to make submissions to the Department of Planning.

Recent Activities

A total of eleven wind monitoring masts and instrumentation have been installed across the wind farm site. The wind data from these masts is collected on a continual basis and is analysed to confirm the wind resource across the site and to aid the selection of the most appropriate wind turbine model for the project.

Specialist studies into the potential impacts from the proposal have been completed. These were undertaken by specialist consultants and included biodiversity, archaeology, noise, visual, traffic and transport impacts. These specialist reports are included in the Environmental Assessment that will be placed on public exhibition.

Silverton Wind Farm Developments issued a request for proposals to some of the world's leading wind turbine suppliers and are in the process of short listing the potential turbine models for the project.

Project Fast Facts

- One of the world's largest wind farms incorporating 598 wind turbines delivering more than 1,000 MW of renewable energy for NSW
- Located on the Barrier Ranges in far western NSW, 5km north of Silverton and 25km north west of Broken Hill
- Delivering ~10% of the Federal Government's proposed expansion of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target
- Excellent wind speeds across the site providing competitively priced electricity
- Two stages of development which will dovetail into a continuous construction period of up to five years
- Strengthening of grid connections for Broken Hill
- Operation and construction providing significant employment and investment opportunities for industry and local benefits for neighbors to the wind farm
- Environmental management improvements on the elevated pastoral land with minimal impact on surrounding local communities



Wind monitoring mast installation



Archaeology Field Studies



Wind monitoring mast assembly

Project Benefits

The project offers the following broad benefits:

- Power generation – NSW needs additional power generation to meet demand. The wind farm would provide 3.5 billion kWh or around 4.5% of NSW's current needs.
- Power quality supply – A new power line would increase quality of supply and allow expansion of industry around Broken Hill
- Greenhouse gas reduction – This project would save approximately 3.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year it operates – the equivalent of taking 700,000 cars off the road each year.
- Environmental benefits - The wind farm would provide local benefits to the environment, including control of feral goats and protection of sensitive and endangered species. It would also provide savings in water consumption of around 4800 million litres of water (the amount of water required to produce the same amount of electricity from coal fired power stations).
- Economic benefits – The wind farm has the potential to provide more than 700 jobs during its five year construction phase, many expected to be filled from the Broken Hill region. Up to 120 jobs would be created for operation and maintenance over the wind farm's life.
- Tourism benefits – As Australia's largest wind farm, and one of the largest in the world, the project would provide a new landmark for tourism to the region and the state. This would in turn provide economic benefits to the communities of Silverton and Broken Hill.
- Community benefits – In addition to economic and social benefits from construction and operation, the local community would benefit from the Solar Silverton program which offers residents renewable energy options for their homes. The proposed Silverton Community Fund would be available for distribution to community projects and facilities.

Having your say

Silverton Wind Farm Developments has submitted the proposal under Part 3A (Major Projects) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act to the Department of Planning for assessment. The Department will place the Environmental Assessment on public display and will invite the public to provide comments on the proposal.

The Environmental Assessment documents will be on exhibition from Wednesday 1 October 2008 until Monday 3 November 2008 at the following locations:

- The Silverton Hotel, Layard Street, Silverton
- Broken Hill City Council, 240 Blende Street, Broken Hill
- Wentworth Shire Council, 26-28 Adelaide St, Wentworth
- Nature Conservation Council, 301 Kent St, Sydney
- Department of Planning, 22-33 Bridge St, Sydney

The Environmental Assessment will also be available electronically on the Silverton Wind Farm website www.silvertonwindfarm.com.au and the Department of Planning website. <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>

It is important for the community to voice their views on the project whether in support of the project or not, or would just like to make comments. Of particular importance is to make clear the specific issues which interest you. To comment on the Environmental Assessment, please send your submission directly to:

Director
Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Enquiries: Swati Sharma
Phone: (02) 9228 6221

Submissions should include your name and address, the name of the project and the project reference number MP 08_0022 and your statement.

Submissions close on 3 November 2008

Contact us:

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