



# CONROY'S GAP WIND FARM

Community Update - November 2005

## Background

This newsletter is to inform you of the wind farm project being investigated in the Black Range / Conroy's Gap area west of Yass.

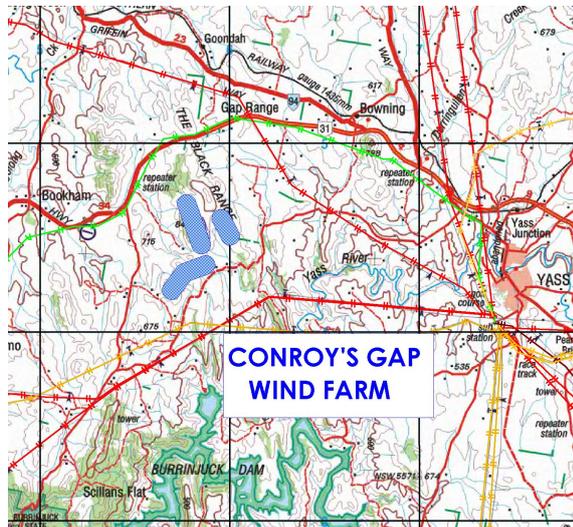
Wind monitoring commenced in the area in October 2003 and has demonstrated that there is sufficient wind resource to develop a small to medium scale wind farm at the proposed site.

The **Conroy's Gap Wind Farm** would contribute to the generation of renewable energy in NSW. It would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal fired power stations, and help to fix the shortfall in power generation capacity in the state. In an average year, it could supply renewable electricity for up to 10,000 average NSW homes.

## Conroy's Gap Wind Farm

### Where would it be located?

Conroy's Gap Wind Farm will be located around 15km west of Yass, in an area known as The Black Range.



### Why a wind farm at Conroy's Gap?

Conroy's Gap has all the right conditions for a wind farm:

- ▶ High wind speeds, among highest in NSW
- ▶ Remote from neighbouring houses
- ▶ Existing powerlines near site
- ▶ Good road access
- ▶ Supportive local landowners

With careful planning, the wind farm can be built with positive impacts on the environment, and provide benefits to the local region.

### What is proposed?

In a typical year the wind farm would be able to generate as much power as used in up to 10,000 average NSW homes.

This would involve:

- ▶ up to 16 wind turbines, each with three blades up to 46m long mounted on a tubular steel tower up to 80m high;
- ▶ electrical connections between turbines using a combination of underground cable and overhead concrete pole power lines;
- ▶ access roads around the site, and minor upgrades to access via Black Range Rd, for installation and maintenance of wind turbines;
- ▶ a substation linking the turbines to the existing Transgrid transmission line located near site;
- ▶ an on-site control room and equipment storage facilities.

Conroy's Gap Wind Farm will connect to the national electricity network, with electricity primarily sent towards Yass.

### Who is proposing the wind farm?

The wind farm is being proposed by specialist wind farm developer **Taurus Energy Pty Ltd**. Taurus Energy focuses on appropriately sized wind farms in regional communities, and is currently investigating small wind farms in NSW at Snowy Plains, Evandale, Cullerin Range and Conroy's Gap.

**nghenvironmental**, based in south-eastern NSW, is assisting Taurus Energy in the wind farm planning, including the preparation of the Statement of Environmental Effects.



## Benefits of wind energy

NSW needs more electricity generation to meet growing customer needs, and to avoid power outages and blackouts.

Wind energy provides:

- ▶ clean, renewable energy
- ▶ reduced use of fossil fuels (i.e. coal) for electricity generation
- ▶ as a result, better outcomes for the environment through reduced pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, factors which lead to global warming
- ▶ income and employment opportunities in regional NSW
- ▶ reliable, dependable electricity production

## The Application process

### What is the process?

Taurus Energy is currently preparing a Environmental Assessment to be lodged with the Development Application (DA) to the NSW Department of Planning (the consent authority).

Our plans for the site are not yet firm, and will be developed taking into account the results of specialist studies as well as the input from the local community.

### What investigations are being undertaken?

The studies to be incorporated in the Environmental Assessment include:

- ▶ Biodiversity (flora and fauna)
- ▶ Heritage (European and Aboriginal)
- ▶ Visual Impacts
- ▶ Noise Impacts
- ▶ Telecommunications Impacts
- ▶ Other impacts

### Indicative timeframe

Nov 05 - Jan 06	Specialist studies & site assessment Community consultation including two public Open-Houses for community input Government consultation
Feb 06 - Mar 06	Environmental Assessment complete Development Application lodged Public exhibition & final public comment
Mar 06 -	Assessment by Department of Planning
Dec 06 -	Proposed construction commencing during summer 2006

## How can you find out more?

We will hold two open houses to discuss the project with the community, and of course you will have an opportunity to submit comments on the proposal to the Department of Planning.

At **first open house** in November Taurus Energy and ngenvironmental will be on hand to introduce the project and answer any questions, as well as to gain feedback from the community to help improve the proposal.

**DATE:** Wednesday 16th November 2005

**WHEN :** between 2pm & 7pm, drop in any time

**WHERE:** Yass Soldiers Club, 86 Meehan St, Yass

A **second open house** will be held in February to present the results of our specialist studies and receive final feedback prior to submitting our application.

### Project updates

This is the first project newsletter describing the status of the project. Updates will be available on our website [www.taurusenergy.com.au](http://www.taurusenergy.com.au) or register for further updates below.

### Media releases and advertising

Taurus will provide details of updates, open houses, and public exhibition periods to the local media, please watch your local papers.

## Having your say on the project

Taurus Energy is keen to incorporate comments and feedback from the local community in planning the Conroy's Gap Wind Farm.

Email us: [ConroysGap@taurusenergy.com.au](mailto:ConroysGap@taurusenergy.com.au)

Write to us: Conroy's Gap Wind Farm  
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Phone us: ngenvironmental  
Contact: Brooke Marshall  
Ph 02 6494 7771

Taurus Energy  
Contact: Anthony Micallef  
Ph 02 9922 7771

### Register on our database

If you would like to be kept up to date on the project, provide us your name, address, contact phone number, and email address via one of the methods above and we will contact you as new updates are available.