

Dundonnell Wind Farm NEWSLETTER

Edition 5, February 2015

Project update

The last 12 months has been the busiest so far for the Dundonnell Wind Farm.

While much of the work is not visible to the community, we have been busy working on our Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Planning Permit Application (PA). These substantial documents are the culmination of five years work, development, surveys and assessments.

The next step is to submit both documents to their respective responsible authorities – the EES to the State Planning Department (DELWP) and the PA to either the Moyne Shire Council or the State Planning Department (please see our story on page two of this newsletter on the election results). We anticipate these documents will be submitted in the first half of this year.

Following this, the Dundonnell Wind Farm will be exhibited for public submission for a period of about four weeks and as part of this process will be advertised in local, state and federal newspapers. This will be a very busy time for Trustpower as we must ensure the community are fully aware of the process and how to make a submission if they would like to. As part of this we will hold a community information day and disseminate information to the public through our website, emails, newsletters and other mediums.

A panel hearing, which will deliberate the approval of the project, will be held about five or six weeks after the exhibition period. We anticipate this will be about the middle of the year. Any submissions will also be provided to Trustpower for review.

If you should have any queries regarding this process please don't hesitate to contact us on our 1800 number.

CHRIS RIGHETTI
PROJECT MANAGER

Salt Creek Wind Farm granted extension

Moyne Shire Council has granted Trustpower a three year extension to the Salt Creek Wind Farm Planning Permit. The extension means work on the Salt Creek Wind Farm will need to be completed by March 2018.

We sought this extension due to hold ups in securing the required electricity offtake agreement in light of the uncertainty in the renewable energy market and also to explore a potential connection to the Dundonnell Wind Farm.

Early works on the Salt Creek Wind Farm started on March 5, 2012, after the Moyne Shire Council voted unanimously to endorse the various plans for the Salt Creek Wind Farm.

The Salt Creek Wind Farm is currently approved for up to 15 turbines and should generate enough power for at least 40,000 households.



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Uncertainty still surrounds the RET

Trustpower remains committed to Australia's wind industry despite the continuing uncertainty surrounding the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

At this stage there are some favourable noises surrounding a more positive stance on the RET. At Trustpower we are quietly confident of a practical and positive outcome between the Coalition and Labor and expect this some time in early 2015.

Despite this uncertainty Trustpower is continuing to expand its Australian assets. We have recently acquired the Rye Park Wind Farm, in NSW (near the ACT). You can read more about the project – which is just slightly ahead of Dundonnell in the application process – at www.ryeparkwf.com.au

The Rye Park Wind Farm purchase follows the two wind farms and three hydro stations we recently acquired from the NSW Government's Green State Power.

As a long term and informed player in the renewable energy market in Australia, Trustpower is committed to the industry and confident renewable energy will be an ongoing part of Australia's long-term electricity market. We have experienced this type of uncertainty before, during the mid 2000s. As a result of our perseverance during that period we have one of the largest and best performing wind farms in Australia, the Snowtown Wind Farm, which, as of September 2014, is now fully commissioned.



Labor's Victorian election victory

As you will be aware, Labor's election victory in November last year could have broad-reaching impacts on the Victorian wind industry.

Prior to the November 2014 state election Labor committed to reducing the current two kilometre setbacks from non-host dwellings to one kilometre and making the State Planning Minister the Responsible Authority for wind farm planning applications. However, at this stage the particular details and timing surrounding the proposed changes to the Victorian planning scheme are not yet known. We will endeavour to keep the community up to speed with any changes which will affect the approval process of our wind farm.

Whether the proposed changes to the planning system would mean the Moyne Shire Council remains the responsible authority for approving the Dundonnell Wind Farm or not, the Council will remain a key stakeholder in the project and at the forefront of our communications. As the new structure needs to be confirmed we anticipate having more details over the next couple of months.



Trustpower Australia

52 Collins Street Melbourne 3000
1800 122 823
dundonnell@trustpower.com.au

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Enquiries?

If you have any queries regarding the Dundonnell Wind Farm, please don't hesitate to be in touch. You can contact us directly on 1800 122 823 or via email, dundonnell@trustpower.com.au

