

Salt Creek Wind Farm

Newsletter
Edition

7

February
2018

Salt Creek towers arrive on site

Wind turbine component deliveries have started at the Salt Creek Wind Farm, with more elements coming over the next two to three weeks.

Project Manager John Rock said multiple deliveries were arriving each day, with nine separate deliveries needed for each of the 15 wind turbines.

“The tower itself comes in four sections, there are three blades, then we have a nacelle and a hub,” John said.

Tilt Renewables has made arrangements to ensure community safety on roads at this busy time. All oversized deliveries onto the site will be escorted and movements are scheduled to avoid school bus hours.

“It’s an exciting time for the whole team as these large components arrive on site and we start to see the wind farm taking shape,” John said.

“The four tower sections go up first, then the nacelle on top. The hub is then lifted and connected to the nacelle. Finally, the blades are lifted and connected to the hub in three separate lifts.”

Each blade weighs about 12.5 tonne. The lift of each blade is a critical part of the turbine erection process and is carried out during periods of low wind speeds.

View the route of deliveries at the website at www.saltcreekwindfarm.com.au

Wind farm on track for April generation

Construction is on track for generation to commence at the wind farm in April 2018.

Renewable Energy Project Engineer Simon Stitz said teams had been thorough and proactive in keeping everyone to schedule, with towers expected to be erected by the end of March.

“There have been some delays in the construction of the poles for the transmission lines, and the teams have been pro-actively managing resources to complete the work,” Simon said.

Stringing of the transmission line has commenced and this part of the project is now on track for completion during April.



Compliance testing

Once the Salt Creek Wind farm begins generating in April there will be a number of compliance activities to complete.

Renewable Energy Project Developer Chris Righetti said these included environmental compliance such as bird and bat monitoring, noise compliance monitoring and visual assessments to address planning approval requirements.

“We will conduct operational noise testing during different times of the year over the first 12 months to ensure we are compliant across all seasonal changes,” Chris said.

“Visual screening will be offered to dwellings within three kilometres of the site boundary that are visually impacted. After construction is completed a letterbox drop will occur to dwellings within this range, offering a site visit by Tilt Renewables and a qualified landscape architect to review the impact at each dwelling.

“If needed an appropriate landscape mitigation plan will be developed.”

Local business benefits

Wind farm projects typically generate substantial economic benefits for the areas where they are based. The Mortlake and broader south-west business community is currently experiencing the positives associated with major projects underway in the district. Read what some of them have to say below.

Mac's Hotel – Jodie Beeck

Planned major projects for the district – such as the wind farm – were a deciding factor in Jodie and Richard Beeck purchasing the town's Mac's Hotel. Jodie said they took over the hotel on February 24 last year.

"We did some due diligence and found that the \$100m Salt Creek Wind Farm and \$16m Western Livestock Selling Exchange were likely projects to get up and running during 2017, making the purchase easy to undertake," Jodie said.

Jodie said the major projects had helped enhance the business and enabled them to plan and action changes sooner.

"Our occupancy is 90 per cent and we haven't had to advertise. If we didn't have the wind farm, we had expected a 40-50 per cent occupancy.

"And of course we have people dropping in for takeaway meals and beers."

Keppel Prince building Salt Creek Wind Farm towers

Keppel Prince is hoping its contract to construct all of the Salt Creek Wind Farm's 15 towers will lead to more work and the employment of a further 300 staff by the end of the year.

General Manager Steve Garner said the Salt Creek Wind Farm project was a real boost to the company and also supporting industries in the region.

"We've worked hard to be competitive against overseas imports. We're really happy to be working with Vestas and Tilt Renewables and looking forward to a strong future ahead," Mr Garner said.

"The wind industry has been up and down and we have had to put off staff before due to the uncertainty in the industry.

"With the new VRET that is now in place we're excited by what the future holds for us and this Salt Creek Wind Farm is a very pleasing first step in expanding our workforce and securing our company's future.

"Under the VRET and with all the projects we are looking at in the second half of this year we think we will go close to doubling our work force."

Westvic Tyres – Simon Ritchie

Mortlake's WestVic Tyres has picked up the tyre contracting work for the wind farm. Business owner Simon Ritchie said the work from the wind farm had allowed them to put on another employee.

"We've put another staff member, a young local fella which is great for our business," Simon said.

"Not only have we got all the work doing alignments and other tyre work as required – we've actually got a wind farm vehicle in the shop at the moment – we've also picked up work from other contractors out at the wind farm.

"This is great for us as it exposes us to other businesses and potential further work in the future."

In addition to the benefits to his business, Simon said the project had helped the local cricket club as well. "I'm the president of the cricket club and we have secured quite a bit of sponsorship from the wind farm. We're building a new stadium so all the sponsorship will benefit the kids of Mortlake."

Fencing Contractor – Grant Cameron

Fencing contractor Grant Cameron undertook about three weeks' work at the Salt Creek Wind Farm.

"The best thing about the work was that it was local and new work I wouldn't normally get," Grant said.

"It's work for a new company that has exposed me to other contractors and companies that normally I would not have met."

Tilt Renewables CEO Deion Campbell speaks with Keppel Prince General Manager Steve Garner and Minister for Energy and Environment Lily D'Ambrosio as they inspect the manufacturing progress of the Salt Creek Wind Farm towers earlier this month.



Olivine Restaurant – Wendy Lynzaat

Olivine restaurant owner Wendy Lynzaat said the Salt Creek Wind Farm was creating business opportunities that previously did not exist.

"I would never do catering jobs out at Woorndoo, that's for sure," she said with a laugh. "I have been doing catering jobs for the business meetings and other meetings.

"It's fairly consistent so that's good too."

Contact us. Web: www.saltcreekwindfarm.com.au

Email: saltcreekwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com | Phone: 1800 122 823

Postal Address: PO Box 16080 Collins St West, Melbourne Vic 8007

