

Panel hearing update

It has been a busy time for the Trustpower team since the conclusion of the Dundonnell Wind Farm panel hearings, which finished on October 20th.

Information relating to the panel hearing, including presentations from our various experts can be found on the Dundonnell webpage www.dundonnellwindfarm.com.au.

Based on the concerns raised in the 135 submissions (52 of them positive and 12 neutral), we chose to call eight witnesses to speak at the panel hearing on the following subjects:

- Visual and landscape;
- Noise;
- Health;
- Brolga (Peer Review);
- Hydrogeology;
- Traffic;
- Flora and fauna (including Brolga);
- Fire.

Our eight expert witnesses presented a very comprehensive, researched and well delivered case for the Dundonnell Wind Farm.

As we had expected, the main issue for this project was the Brolga. Our environmental consultant Brett Lane spent just over a full day answering questions and presenting on the Brolga studies that we have carried out over the last four years, in an attempt to define the impact on the Brolga population from this development. We were pleased with Brett's effort over a very testing day or so under cross-examination.

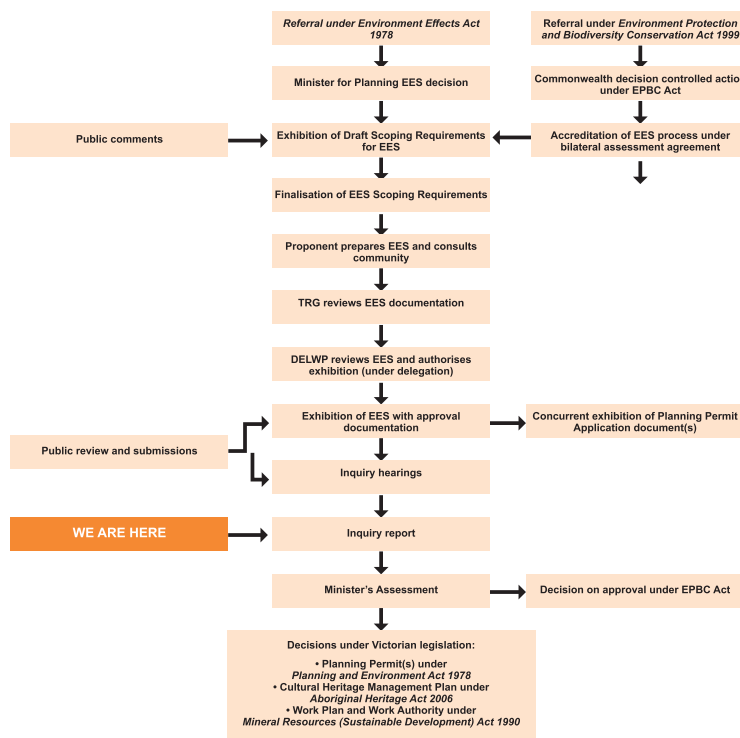
The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP – Environment Section) were not present at the panel. As a result the environmental 'umpire' was not there to provide an opinion or feedback on various issues. The panel has since written to DELWP with very specific questions regarding the Brolga. In late November DELWP Environment provided a written response to the questions from the panel. DELWP's feedback was quite supportive of the work we have carried out on the Dundonnell WF project and ultimately supported our conclusion that the buffers are appropriate and the project will achieve a zero net impact on the Brolga population.

Now we are waiting for a decision – look at our Minister's decision article for further details.

We thank everyone for their support over the past 12 months and wish you all a healthy and happy festive season and 2016.



CHRIS RIGHETTI
PROJECT MANAGER



Minister's decision

We expect the panel's report on the project to be delivered to the Minister in early January. The Minister's department will then generate a briefing document which will be provided to the Minister for a decision to be made on the project.

Trustpower expected a panel report to be released mid December and had originally hoped a decision would be made on the project this year. Now it seems unlikely to happen until early next year. We will continue discussions with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria because our permit approval is dependent on the Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP) being approved by AAV.

Potential timeline:

Early Jan - Planning Panel to finalise recommendation report and submit to Minister for Planning;

Early Jan - Ministers Department summarise report and table a 'briefing' for the Minister;

Jan/Feb - Minister for Planning makes a decision on EES;

Jan/Feb - Minister for Aboriginal Affairs makes a decision on CHMP;

Feb/March - Minister for Planning can then make a decision on the planning permit applications for the wind farm, transmission line and offsite substation.

Please keep a keen eye on our website over the Christmas and New Year period for updates with regards to the decision making process.

What next?

Trustpower is optimistic that a positive decision will be made with regards to the Dundonnell Wind Farm project. If a permit is granted for the project we will then consider the conditions of the permit and proceed to fulfil them throughout 2016.

Fulfilling permit conditions is a very detailed process that involves the preparation of documents including an Environmental Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan.

We would also need to look into the detailed design parameters for the project and invite interest from potential wind turbine suppliers.

The most important item for the Dundonnell WF will be to establish a successful offtake agreement with an energy utility company. This is the process where we establish an agreement with an offtake provider to sell the energy from the wind farm. We believe those discussions will commence in the early stages of next year and with an approved project we can put Dundonnell on the table for consideration by those parties.

What else has Trustpower been doing?

Western Australia

Trustpower has recently invested in a combined wind and solar development project in Western Australia.

Palmer Wind Farm, South Australia

Trustpower's proposed Palmer Wind Farm project is about 50km east of Adelaide, near Palmer and Tungkillo, in South Australia. Our vision is for up to 114 turbines, generating as much as 1300GWh of clean, sustainable energy. We anticipate an approval decision on this project by the end of the year.

Rye Park Wind Farm, New South Wales

Trustpower's proposed Rye Park Wind Farm project is located north of Yass and south-east of Boorowa, New South Wales. Our vision is for up to 109 turbines, generating as much as 1031 GWh of clean, sustainable energy. After changes to our initial proposal, a revised Environmental Impact Statement and responses to submission raised were submitted in October 2015.



Welcome new staff member – Andres Maasing

Andres Maasing has joined the Australian Trustpower team as the head of Australian Business Development. Andres comes from Mitsui, a global business with expertise in direct investment, finance marketing and logistics.

Andres has worked very closely on parts of the Bald Hills Wind Farm in Eastern Victoria and will seek investment opportunities for Trustpower in all states, as well as working closely on the post approval aspects of our development projects such as energy offtake agreements.



We wish the Dundonnell community and all the groups and individuals with an interest in the Dundonnell Wind Farm a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We'll be in touch again in the New Year with an update on the approvals process. In the meantime our website will be updated with our progress over the holiday break. Wishing you all a happy and healthy festive season and a prosperous 2016.

Trustpower Australia

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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

