

Dundonnell Wind Farm

Newsletter
Edition

10

January
2018

Approval for increased tip height

Tilt Renewables is thrilled to receive approval to increase the tip height at the proposed Dundonnell Wind Farm.

General Manager of Renewable Development Clayton Delmarter said turbine technology had changed substantially since the scope of the project was defined in 2013 and the tip height increase would allow for technology improvements and a lower cost of energy.

“Other projects with older planning approvals have successfully increased their tip heights over recent months for the same reason and we also applied to do this,” Clayton said.

“The increase in tip height from 165 to 189 metres has been thoroughly assessed by various experts and is considered a minor change.

“Any change to visual or noise impact would be negligible, as would any impact to birds and bats. Our permit allows for minor variations to the project to be varied by the written consent of the responsible authority, so we applied to the Planning Minister to vary the tip height.”

Prior to the lodgement of this request to the Minister Tilt Renewables engaged with Council, residents within five kilometres of the wind farm and other key stakeholders. Feedback was largely positive throughout the process.

“The total number of turbines that can be constructed will also be reduced from the 96 turbines approved under the permit to no more than 88 turbines.

“The revised tip height allows the project to benefit from higher average wind speeds and use larger, more efficient wind turbines.

“We expect the project’s annual energy production to increase by about 10 per cent, or enough to power more than 15,000 additional average homes. This is a material increase and makes much more effective use of the naturally available resource without any significant increase in environmental effects.

“We are now focused on closing out remaining development activities, such as network connection arrangements and other key procurement contracts. We will then assess the project and consider presenting a business case to our Board of Directors towards the middle of the year for a financial investment decision to progress the wind farm.”



VRET Application

Tilt Renewables is preparing its bid for the Dundonnell Wind Farm to be part of the Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme (VREAS).

Project Manager Chris Righetti said round one of the scheme would incorporate an auction to support up to 650 megawatts of renewable energy capacity across wind, solar and other renewable sources.

“The State Government’s Renewable Energy Targets have been a terrific trigger to generate action and enthusiasm in the Victorian industry,” Chris said.

“We will be submitting the Dundonnell project to the auction, which closes mid-February. If successful we expect to hear back from the State Government by August.

“There has been a lot of work going into preparing the bid for VREAS from the project team, which if successful, could see construction commencing on Dundonnell by the end of 2018.”

Local business benefits

Wind farm projects typically generate substantial economic benefits for the areas where they are based. The Mortlake 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 were both living in Melbourne but stayed at the pub in August last year when he had a house warming and family reunion in the town," Jodie said.

"I fell in love with the building and with everything that was planned for the town we thought it was a really viable option.

"We came back to the town 3-4 times before committing, 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 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."

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."

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. I would hope the Dundonnell project goes ahead to provide us with more business opportunities."

Goods and Services Register

Businesses and individuals interested in providing goods, services and seeking employment on the proposed Dundonnell Wind Farm are invited to submit applications through our Goods & Services Register. A form is available at dundonnellwindfarm.com.au

Proposed Timeline

Early 2018

- Submit VREAS tender
- Finalise wind turbine supplier

Mid 2018

- Receive response from State Government on VREAS bid

If successful:

- Financial close, with Board approval to construct wind farm
- Appoint key construction companies

Late 2018

- Begin construction



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."