FACT SHEET: MAY 2005

The Victorian Government has set an ambitious target of 1000MW of wind power by 2006. The policy groundwork for the expansion of Victorian wind farms has already been set with the publication of the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria*. This document provides a comprehensive framework to ensure that wind farm developments are assessed against a strict set of guidelines taking into account stringent environmental, economic, social and cultural considerations.

Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Pty Ltd (WWF) aims to contribute to this target with the development of a wind farm at Woolsthorpe in south west Victoria. The project would produce up to 40MW of electricity- enough power for up to 23,000 homes and requiring an investment of up to $60 million. The generation of clean wind power at Woolsthorpe will help meet Victoria's growing need for electricity as well as providing construction and manufacturing jobs for Victorians.

BACKGROUND

WWF is a subsidiary of Wind Farm Developments (WFD) which was formed to develop, project manage, commission and operate utility scale wind farm developments in Australia and New Zealand. WFD has offices in Adelaide, Melbourne and Wellington, and is investigating projects on both sides of the Tasman. WFD secured development approval for the 90 MW Wattle Point Wind Farm on Yorke Peninsula in South Australia currently nearing completion of its construction.

THE PROJECT

The proposed wind farm site is approximately 20 kilometres inland from the coast in the Moyne Shire in south west Victoria. Located about 4 km west of Woolsthorpe and 10 km south east of Hawkesdale, the project site (approximately 750 ha) consists of gently undulating, cleared agricultural land used for intensive sheep farming. It is anticipated that up to 20 turbines, totalling up to 40MW could be accommodated at the site. Each turbine will be up to 125 metres in height from the tower base to the tip of the blade. The tower with nacelle is expected to be up to 80m high, and the blades up to 45m long. The turbines would be placed between 300 and 500 metres apart.

The electricity generated would be delivered via an 18 kilometre distribution line to the Koroit substation providing reliable and pollution free power for the National Electricity Grid.

A feasibility assessment confirms that the site has an excellent wind resource and low sensitivity to ecologically significant flora and fauna. Two flora and fauna studies were undertaken during the second half of 2004. These studies formed the basis of a referral to the Commonwealth Government pursuant to the Environment Protection Biodiversity & Conservation Act. The referral was submitted in December 2004, and a determination that the proposed Woolsthorpe wind farm would not affect nationally significant or endangered flora and fauna was received in January 2005.

Looking south across the proposed site

PROJECT TIMETABLE

A 40m mast with anemometers (wind measuring equipment) was erected on site in July 2002. More than 2 years of wind data has now been collected and analysed, revealing good wind characteristics suitable for the development of a wind farm.

As the wind farm will be over 30MW, the Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for assessing the wind farm proposal. As part of this process, a series of detailed studies to assess the potential noise, visual, cultural and ecological impacts of the wind farm are being undertaken. If development approval is obtained in the second half of 2005, construction could begin in the second quarter of 2006 and be completed in 9-12 months.

BENEFITS

The project will produce electricity for up to 23,000 households as well as promoting western Victoria as an environmentally friendly eco-power destination. The resulting displacement of greenhouse gas emissions is expected to be equivalent to 159,000* tonnes of CO2 per annum.

The capital cost of this wind farm is expected to be up to $60m, with at least 40% to be spent in Victoria.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

WWF considers public and government stakeholder consultation to be essential at all stages of a wind farm development. In addition to information available on our web site, there will also be an opportunity for the public to meet with the Project Team, learn more about the Woolsthorpe proposal and wind farms in general at the wind farm Community Open Day to be held in Woolsthorpe during June 2005. This will be held on June 2nd at the Woolsthorpe Public Hall located on Manifold Street, Woolsthorpe from 2pm to 7pm. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome (VicRoads, Map 89, H4).

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information about the proposed Woolsthorpe wind farm, or jobs and tender opportunities please contact us:

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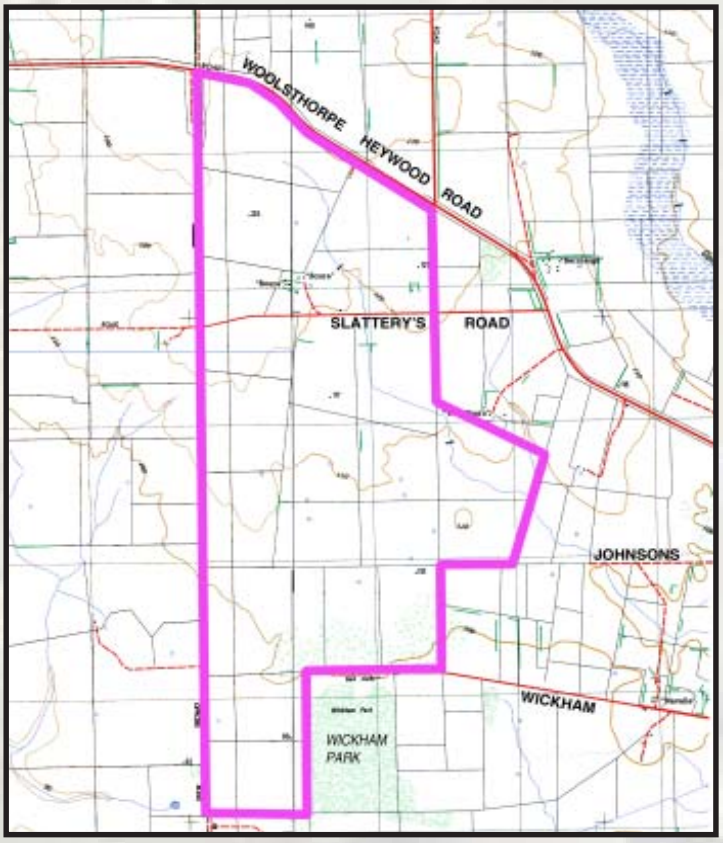
WIND ENERGY FACTS

- Wind power is the world's fastest growing energy source
- There are 47,000MW of wind turbines installed worldwide
- Australia has an excellent wind resource with 380MW of installed wind turbines and more than four times that approved for construction
- A wind farm typically occupies less than 3% of the land area so farming can continue as normal
- 5,000MW of wind capacity in Australia would deliver $10 billion of investment, 10,000 jobs and electricity for 2.5 million homes

STATISTICS (on average)

Generating Capacity	**Up to 40MW**
Greenhouse Gas Savings/Year	**Up to 159,000* tonnes**
Homes Powered	**Up to 23,000 homes**
Capital Cost	**Up to $60 million**



Site Boundary of Proposed Woolsthorpe Wind Farm