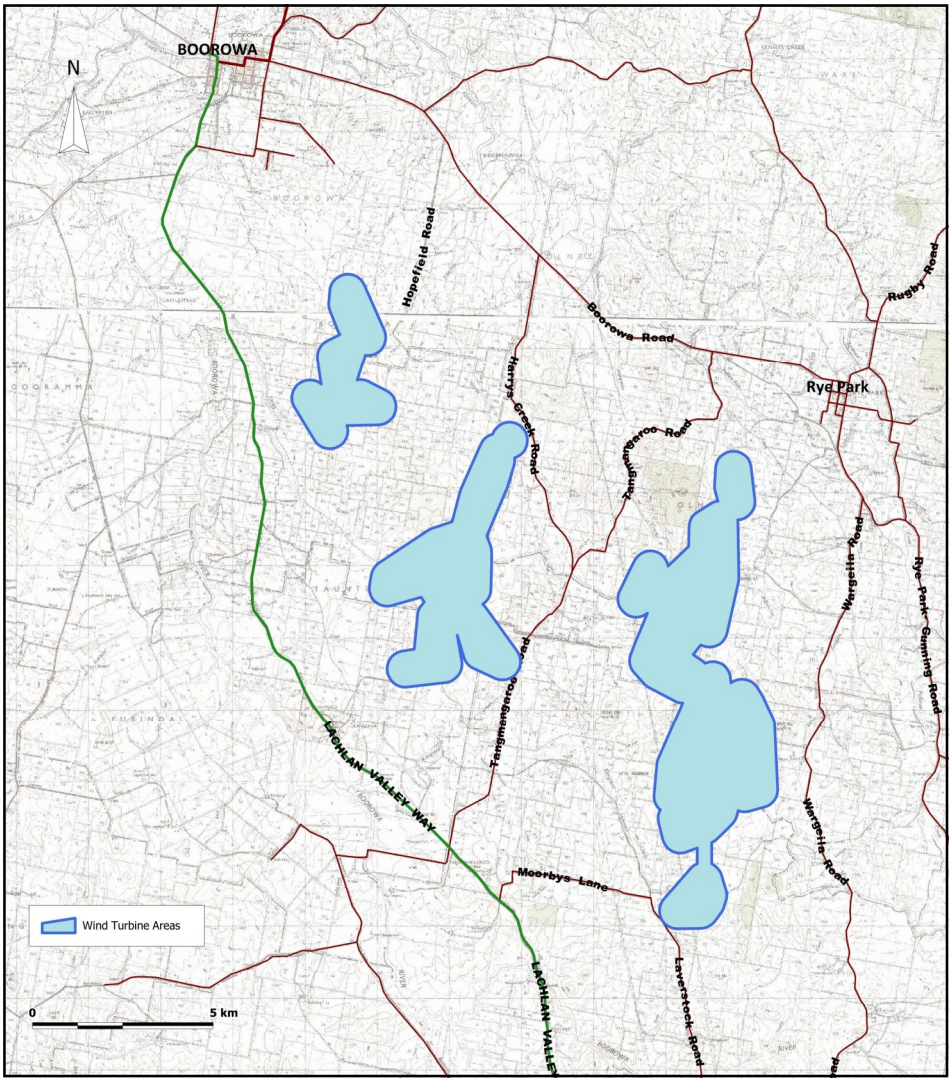
Bango Wind Farm

August 2012 **Newsletter #1**

Introducing the proposed Bango Wind Farm to the local community

Dear Resident,

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is assessing the potential for a wind farm on rural land to the south of the town of Boorowa and the village of Rye Park, New South Wales (see map below). The proposed Bango Wind Farm project could accommodate upwards of 100 wind turbines and produce in the order of 700 gigawatt hours (GWh) of clean, renewable energy, enough to supply the equivalent demand of 100,000 average homes across Australia[1].



With this newsletter, we would like to update you with how the project has changed since the announcement of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) in March 2011.

Changes to the proposed envelope of Bango Wind Farm have been made based on ongoing community consultation and feedback, plus the results of early studies. The map below represents the current potential turbine region for the proposed wind farm. More detail including draft turbine locations and transmission line easement routes will be made available once further layout critical studies have been undertaken and feedback on the general project envelope is received.

Bango Wind Farm is still subject to ongoing refinement and we continue to welcome feedback from interested members of the community. We plan to hold a **Public Open Day on Thursday 16th August at Boorowa Bowling Club from 2:30 to 7:00 pm.** There will be a range of early information about the proposed project on display and an opportunity to meet with the Wind Prospect CWP development team.

This newsletter is the first in a series that will help to keep you informed of progress, in parallel with the project website (www.bangowindfarm.com.au). Our contact details are available on the back page of this newsletter should you wish to contact us directly.

[i] based on an indicative capacity factor of c.40% from 200 MW installed, and an average household energy use of 6.926MWh p.a. (Electricity Gas Australia 2008 publication from the Electricity Supply Association of Australia ESAA)

WIND PROSPECT CWP PTY LTD

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is a locally based wind farm development company with an office in Newcastle, NSW that is staffed by experienced wind farm professionals with a range of skills in planning, engineering and environmental science.

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is a partnership between the Wind Prospect Group (WP) and Continental Wind Partners (CWP). WP undertake all aspects of wind energy development, including design, construction, operation and commercial services, with offices in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia and China. With over 20 years of successful development within the industry, WP has been involved in over 2,500 MW of approved wind farms. WP's domestic operation lays claim to being the most successful developer in Australia, having achieved planning approval for 12 wind farms totalling over 1,100 MW, of which 565 MW is operating or under construction. Our most recent planning success is in New South Wales with the Boco Rock Wind Farm (260 MW) located approximately 40 km south of Cooma.

CWP were established in 2007 to finance the development of wind farms in Romania and Poland. They have since grown to be a leader in renewable energy development, expanding into the rest of Europe and Australia, with projects totalling over 4,500 MW including one of the largest project in Europe, the 600 MW Fantanele wind farm now operating in Romania.

DRIVERS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government's enhanced Renewable Energy Target (eRET) is a scheme which has been established to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable energy sources to achieve a commitment of a 20 percent share of renewables in Australia's electricity supply by 2020. The eRET places a legal liability on wholesale purchases of electricity (e.g. electricity retailers) to proportionally contribute to an additional 45,000 GWh of renewable energy each year.

The steep 'ramp up' profile of the requirements of eRET up to 2020 and the significant lead time which is required to complete renewable energy developments and construction, requires the commencement of new projects now.

BANGO WIND FARM

Bango Wind Farm could consist of upwards of 100 wind turbines with a rated capacity between 1.5 to 4.5 MW each. The wind turbines would be three bladed, multi-pitch, horizontal axis machines mounted on top of a steel tower. Blade lengths range from 40 m to greater than 65 m with tower heights ranging from 70 m to over 120 m. We do not yet know which wind turbine model will be best suited for the Bango Wind Farm, however to ensure we address the greatest potential impact, our assessments will be undertaken with regard to the largest available wind turbine in the market.

The turbines would be located chiefly on the higher altitude ridges within the site boundary, where they would be well spaced and positioned with regards to landscape amenity, existing land use, ecological conservation and cultural heritage values, and in accordance with relevant guidelines and legislation.

The wind farm would also consist of ancillary structures and equipment which would be positioned in accordance with site constraints. These include access tracks, overhead and underground electrical cabling, substations, permanent storage compounds, wind measuring masts plus temporary facilities during the construction phase. An external power line would also be required to connect to the nearby transmission network. The project site is currently used as rural farm land and this would continue to be the case after construction. Once the wind farm is operational it would be monitored remotely, with maintenance staff undertaking regular service and maintenance in line with the selected wind turbine model.

The life span of a wind farm is usually 20-25 years, after which time there would be an option to either decommission the site, restoring the area to its previous land use with regard to consent conditions and lease requirements, or to upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational life.

DRAFT NSW PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR WIND FARMS

The NSW Government published Draft Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms (Draft Guidelines) on the 23rd December 2011.

One of the proposals put forward in the Draft Guidelines is for wind farm proponents to establish a Community Consultation Committee (CCC). The purpose of a CCC would be to provide a forum for open discussion between Wind Prospect CWP, the community, Local Government and other stakeholders. In particular, the CCC would provide a forum to:

- Establish good working relationships between the proponent and the community;
- Provide for ongoing communication and information dissemination;
- Discuss community concerns and resolutions; and
- Advise on the allocation of Community Enhancement Funds.

In preparing for the Draft Guidelines being incorporated, Wind Prospect CWP would like to seek nominations from interested community representatives and other stakeholders who would be willing to sit on the CCC. Nomination forms will be made available through contacting us directly via the details provided in this newsletter or on our website. **Nominations will close on the 21st September 2012.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) and is available on their website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au (following the link to *Development - Major Project Register)*. Over the next few months the focus will be on talking to the community to get further input into the proposal, and at the same time engaging specialist consultants to undertake and complete detailed investigations into the following areas:

- Socio-Economic
- Ecology
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Acoustics
- Geology
- Civil Works/Construction
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Aviation
- Traffic Impact and Safety

PROPOSED TIME LINE

March 2011 - Project Announced

April 2011 - Director General's Requirements issued

Ongoing - Consultation with Stakeholders

2013 - Project Submission & DoPI Decision

2014/15 - Construction Begins

2015/16 - Commissioning

PUBLIC OPEN DAY—THURSDAY 16TH OF AUGUST

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd will be holding a Public Open Day on Thursday 16th August for the Bango Wind Farm at Boorowa Bowling Club from 2.30 to 7.00 pm.

The Public Open Day will take the form of large scale displays, including maps of the proposed wind farm, photomontages of the proposed project from a range of locations, and other information about what has been done and what is still to be done. A number of Wind Prospect CWP staff members will also be on hand to speak to and answer any questions.

MORE ABOUT WIND FARMS

Visual Effects

The view of modern wind turbines provokes a mixed response from the public; many consider them to be elegant additions to the landscape while others do not like the way wind farms look. Wind farms are usually found on ridgelines, theoretically making them visible over a large area. However, distance from the wind farm, along with screening by intervening topography, vegetation and buildings are all factors that reduce the visibility of the wind farm. Weather and light conditions also have a significant effect on wind farm visibility.

We will be undertaking a review of the project in terms of landscape effects and visual amenity. Part of this study will determine how visible the wind farm will be from representative viewpoints around the local area, by way of 3D modelling and the production of wind farm photomontages. We have found that many people have been pleasantly surprised by the results of these photomontages, as in many cases they show that the wind farm will be a distant rather than prominent landscape feature.

Sound

Thanks to technological improvements modern wind turbines are very quiet and while they do emit sound as the blades rotate, it is quite possible to hold a normal conversation at the base of a modern machine. The main sound from wind turbines is the aerodynamic noise from the blades. This sound varies according to turbine type, topography, wind speed and direction (it is very difficult to hear a wind farm on a windy day due to the background noise, such as rustling vegetation and the whistling of the wind itself). However, concerns over sound emitted from a wind farm are understandable given the noisy reputation of earlier turbine models. To allay these concerns and to ensure the wind farm complies with the environmental noise guidelines, we will be commissioning an acoustic consultant to assess if there will be any noise effects from the proposed project on nearby properties.

Ecology

The construction and operation of a wind farm has the potential to affect the ecology of the site. A comprehensive biodiversity assessment of the site will focusing on flora, fauna (including birds, reptiles, and invertebrates), habitats and waterways. Our approach is to avoid where possible, mitigate appropriately, and offset biodiversity losses as advised. We are exploring the use of BioBanking to mitigate for habitat losses, which allows landowners to set aside land in return for payments. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact us directly for more information.

Useful Websites

- Bango Wind Farm: www.bangowindfarm.com.au
- Wind Prospect: www.windprospect.com
- Continental Wind Partners: www.continentalwind.com
- Clean Energy Council: www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au
- NSW Government Renewable Energy Precinct Resources: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/reprecinctresources.htm

HOW TO CONTACT US

Please post/email/fax your comments to us via:

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