

Willatook Wind Farm

Newsletter 5

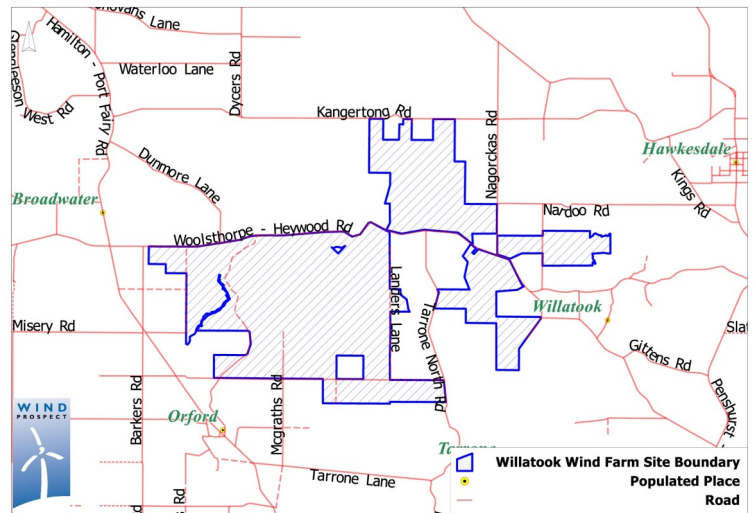
October 2018

An update on the proposed Willatook Wind Farm

THE PROPOSED WILLATOOK WIND FARM

Wind Prospect is pleased to provide an update on the proposed Willatook Wind Farm. Since the previous newsletter, there has been a period of consultation with members of the local community along with further technical and environmental studies to assess the potential impacts from the proposed wind farm.

In response to the outcomes of this activity, and as a result of advancements in wind turbine technology, the number of wind turbines has been reduced from the 99 proposed last year to the current 83 wind turbines, each having a proposed tip height of up to 220m. Further details of the Willatook Wind Farm proposal can be found on the project website www.willatookwindfarm.com.au.



An Environment Effects Statement Referral (EES Referral), based on the current proposed 83 wind turbine layout, has been lodged with the Minister for Planning. This will establish the need for an Environment Effects Statement. Further information on this process is provided below.



Photomontage of the proposed Willatook Wind Farm, from the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, north of Orford.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Public Consultation

Since the previous newsletter, there has been a neighbour door knock within approximately 3km of the proposed site boundary, to discuss the project and request feedback. There have also been a number of one on one meetings, along with a group meeting at the Willatook Hall, attended by approximately 60 people. During this consultation, a number of issues have been raised, including noise; visual and landscape impacts; aerial spraying; firefighting; impacts on ecology; impacts on TV reception; and, cumulative impacts with other operational and permitted wind farms in the area. A full assessment of these issues will accompany a planning permit application.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Willatook Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

To date, 16 meetings have taken place with the Community Engagement Committee established by Moyne Shire Council. The Committee comprises the Mayor and two Councillors, three community representatives and two representatives from Wind Prospect.

EES Referral

An EES Referral has been lodged with the Minister for Planning, who will determine whether the proposed Willatook Wind Farm requires an Environment Effects Statement. Further information on the process can be found at:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/environment-effects-referrals>

A number of assessments accompany the referral, which have assessed the potential impact of the proposed Willatook Wind Farm. These include assessments of biodiversity; geoscience; landscape and visual impact; noise; traffic; and, cultural heritage. The EES referral and associated figures and attachments can be found at:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/referrals-and-decisions>

Information Sessions

Information sessions will be held at local venues to provide an opportunity for local residents and other stakeholders to drop in, view information about the project and discuss the project with Wind Prospect staff. The information sessions will present project material, including photomontages that would give a reasonable impression of how the project would appear from various locations in the area. The dates and locations of the information sessions will be determined following the decision on whether an Environment Effects Statement is required, since this decision will determine the planning pathway for the proposed wind farm. A notice will be distributed in advance of the information sessions.

Brolga

As part of the ongoing Brolga surveys, Wind Prospect has engaged an independent consultant to conduct further surveys over land within 10km of the proposed wind farm site. The purpose of the Brolga surveys is to determine the level of Brolga activity in the area. It is expected that this will take place during the next two months following consultation with owners of that land on which wetlands are situated.



Community Benefits

The proposed Willatook Wind Farm, once operational, would provide annual funding in support of local initiatives. Wind Prospect would welcome any suggestions regarding potential projects in the area that the wind farm could support.

HOW TO CONTACT US



Wind Prospect Pty Ltd

PO Box 110
Fitzroy VIC 3065

Phone: 03 9005 9075

Email: melbourne@windprospect.com.au

Website: www.windprospect.com.au



If you wish to participate in the online community consultation, please complete a copy of our **Public Opinion Survey** available at www.willatookwindfarm.com.au