

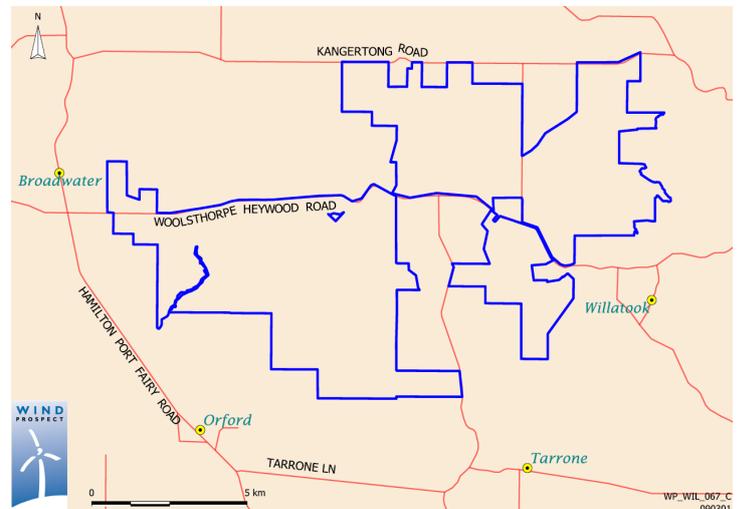
April 2011

### *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 November 2010 publishing of Newsletter 2 and the commencement of community consultation in September 2010, a number of detailed site assessments and consultation with the local community have progressed, the results of which have been fed into the wind farm site design. As a result of this work, the number of turbines now being proposed has been reduced from 190 wind turbines to up to approximately 145 turbines. This includes the removal of a group of turbines located to the west of the main site. The adjacent map indicates the current boundary of the wind farm. Further details of the Willatook Wind Farm proposal can be found on the project website.

Further changes may be made over coming months as the design of the proposed wind farm evolves and adapts in response to the recommendations from assessments currently underway, and in response to feedback received through ongoing public consultation. This evolution will ensure the final proposed project will be the most appropriate for the site.



#### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

##### Planning changes

The Victorian government has implemented some changes to the planning process for wind farms. One of the key changes is reinstating the local government authority as the responsible authority that assesses wind farm planning permit applications over 30MW. This means that the Moyne Shire Council would be the responsible authority that will assess the planning permit application for the proposed Willatook Wind Farm. The Moyne Shire Council is still able to request the Minister for Planning to call in the application under certain circumstances.

##### Public Consultation

Meetings and discussions with various stakeholders including community groups, government agencies and non-government organisations are taking place to identify issues that require addressing during project planning and design. Wind Prospect has also met with several neighbours around the proposed Willatook Wind Farm site to discuss the proposal. A number of photomontages that depict how the wind farm would look from neighbours residences have also been prepared. If you would like to discuss the proposal or live proximate to the proposed wind farm and would like to have a photomontage prepared to depict how the wind farm would appear from your residence, please contact Wind Prospect using the details provided at the end of this newsletter. Consultation with project stakeholders will continue throughout the various stages of development of the proposed project.

##### Willatook Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

The Moyne Shire Council has established the Willatook Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee. The Committee comprises the Moyne Shire Major Projects Committee (the Mayor and two Councillors), three community representatives and Wind Prospect. There are currently vacancies for a community representative on the Committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee or finding out more, please contact Vicki Askew-Thornton at the Moyne Shire Council on (03) 5568-0555.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### Senate Inquiry into Rural Wind Farms

A Senate Inquiry into The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms is currently underway. Submissions made prior to 10th February 2011 will be reported on the 30th April 2011. A number of public hearings are also being held. This Inquiry provides an important assessment of the potential social and economic effects of wind farms in rural Australia. Further information can be found on the parliament of Australia website - [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/impact\\_rural\\_wind\\_farms/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/impact_rural_wind_farms/index.htm).

### Open Days

Dates for the public exhibition open days have not yet been determined. Once dates have been set invitations will be distributed to all post boxes within approximately 10 km of the proposed site area and to other relevant stakeholders. If you would like to receive an invitation but are not registered with Wind Prospect or do not live within 10 km of the proposed site area, please contact Wind Prospect to ensure you receive an invitation.

### EES referral

Wind Prospect expects to submit a referral to the Minister for Planning as to whether an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) will be required. The EES referral will contain a range of information regarding the Willatook Wind Farm proposal which would be made publicly available on the Department of Planning and Community Development website at [www.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au). If an EES is not required, applicable Commonwealth and Victorian legislation and guidelines require that detailed assessment of potential impacts would nevertheless be required to inform a planning permit application.



## HAVE YOUR SAY



Your opinion matters to us. We would like to hear your views on how the wind farm proposal could potentially be improved. A Public Opinion Survey regarding the proposed Willatook Wind farm is available at [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au). Feedback can also be provided by contacting us via the contact details provided below.

Wind Prospect is particularly keen to tap into local knowledge about Brolga and invites local residents to contact Wind Prospect with current or historical information regarding Brolga habitat or activity within 10 kilometres of the proposed wind farm site area.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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If you wish to participate in the community consultation, please complete a copy of our **Public Opinion Survey** available at [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au)