

Baynton Wind Farm Community Newsletter

Issue 1 – October 2010

Welcome to the first edition of the Baynton Wind Farm newsletter. Transfield Services is currently assessing the potential for a wind farm to be developed on the hills to the west of Tooborac village. The project is in the assessment phase and this newsletter is the first in a series that will keep you informed of progress.

We also invite those interested in the project to attend a community open house. The details are:

**Tooborac Hall, Northern Highway, Tooborac
Thursday 28 October between 3pm and 8pm.**

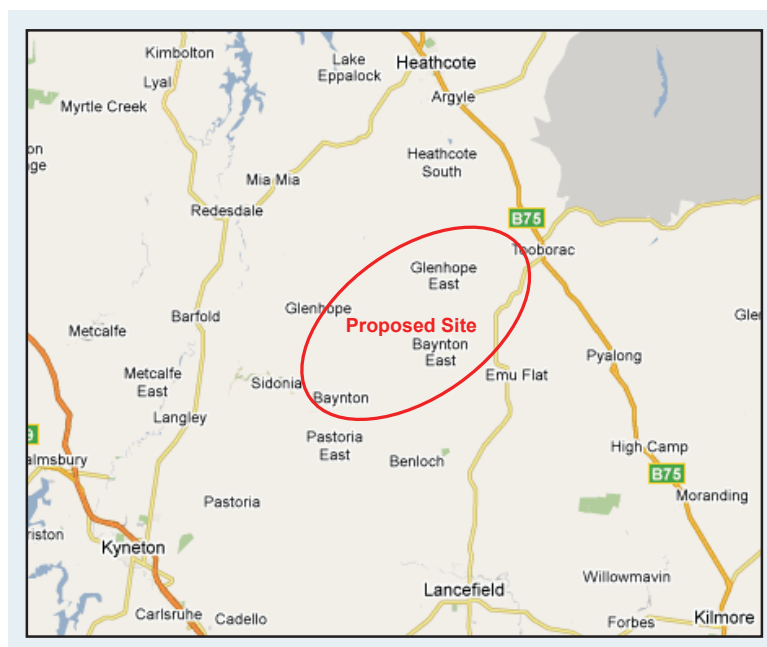
Community members are welcome to drop in at any time to discuss the project with Transfield Services' representatives.

The project

Transfield Services is assessing the potential for establishing a wind farm of between 50 and 70 wind turbines on the hills to the west of Tooborac village. Studies have indicated that wind speeds across the hills are ideal for harnessing this renewable energy source.

Wind farms produce clean energy, have minimal environmental impact and generate jobs and income in regional areas. In addition, this project would contribute to the Australian Government's target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

The proposed project represents a potential \$325 million investment in the region and has the potential to supply renewable electricity equivalent to the needs of approximately 70,000 Victorian homes.



Highlighted above is the proposed site of the wind farm.

What opportunities are there for community input into this proposal?

At Transfield Services we have a proud history of developing positive long-term relationships with the communities in which we work.

We see this as a two-way process. Gaining local knowledge and understanding community views will be important considerations for us in undertaking the various technical studies and assessing the potential of the site to host a wind farm. In turn, Transfield Services is committed to involving the community throughout the development process and we undertake to provide information in a timely and transparent manner.



We expect that the local community will have a range of views about this project and we anticipate that these views will allow us to develop the best project possible.

There are a number of ways that you can gain information on the project and contribute to the development process, including:

- a Community Open House to be held at the Tooborac Hall, Northern Highway, Tooborac, on Thursday 28 October between 3pm and 8pm;
- regular community newsletters, such as this one, throughout the development phase;
- one-on-one meetings with interested or concerned parties;
- correspondence via telephone, email or letter to Transfield Services' Project Manager (details below); and
- Transfield Services wind farm website – www.windfarms.net.au

The wind farm site straddles the boundary between Mitchell and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils. Transfield Services has committed to keeping both Councils informed throughout the project.

What are we investigating?

Over the next six months, Transfield Services will investigate the potential impact of the wind farm on your environment and community. This includes:

- flora and fauna assessments, including the potential for impacts on birds and bats;
- noise assessment to understand the potential impacts on neighbouring residences;
- visual impact assessment, including preparation of photomontages;
- aeronautical impact assessment;
- telecommunications interference studies; and
- cultural heritage significance, including consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

The scope of this work will be guided by the Victorian Government's *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Energy Facilities In Victoria* (September 2009), and relevant best practice guidance. We also invite the community to contribute local knowledge to the scoping of these technical studies.

These investigations, together with the information and views gathered from community and government, will be considered in the design of the wind farm and the associated access tracks, substation and transmission line.

What is the planning process?

On completion of the technical studies and following the initial community and government agency consultation activities, Transfield Services will commence the planning process.

This will involve a referral to the Minister for Planning to determine if the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and whether an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required. If an EES is not required a Planning Permit Application will be prepared and submitted to the Responsible Authority (expected to be the Minister for Planning). This will include a compilation of the technical studies outlined above. The application will then be referred to other government authorities and the public will be notified.

Who is Transfield Services?

Transfield Services is an Australian-owned company and is a leading provider of operations, maintenance, asset and project management services. The company – with a workforce in excess of 28,000 employees - works across diverse industries including mining, hydrocarbons, transport, water, energy, telecommunications and defence.

Transfield Services owns and operates a portfolio of power stations across Australia with a total generating capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW). The company also owns and operates three wind farms, including the Toora project in Gippsland, and has an interest in a number of wind farm development sites.

Transfield Services has extensive experience in project development and delivery across Australia, and has fostered close relationships with landowners and host communities. The company has an enviable track record of working with communities to develop solutions to community issues.

For more information

We invite you to attend our community open house on Thursday 28 October, or to contact Transfield Services' Project Manager, Nick Valentine, on **(02) 9963 9924** or valentinen@transfieldservices.com with any questions.

Information about wind energy is available at www.windfarms.net.au

www.transfieldservices.com



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