

Berrybank Wind Farm

Project Update

The planning application for the proposed Berrybank Wind Farm is now on public exhibition. The public exhibition stage is designed to allow interested locals and other stakeholders to consider the planning application, and to make a formal submission. A submission must be in writing and can be in the form of a letter, email or report. Submissions can support the wind farm, oppose the wind farm, or both support and oppose, including conditional support or opposition. All submissions will be made public and can be viewed by anyone. Submissions are due by 16 November 2009.

We encourage interested parties to obtain copies of the planning application and consider it when preparing a submission. The planning application consists of a single planning report, and numerous supplementary reports. The planning report contains a summary of the supplementary reports.

Where can I see the Planning Application?

Hard copies of the planning application for views are available at the following locations:

- Department of Planning and Community Development, Barwon South West Region, Warrnambool Office, 25 Liebig Street Warrnambool and Geelong Office, cnr Lt Malop and Fenwick Streets, Geelong.
- Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn.
- Corangamite Shire Council, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown.

Electronic copies of the planning application are also available by contacting Union Fenosa Wind Australia on the free call number 1800 457 181, who will send out a CD in the mail free of charge

Next Steps

The responsible authority (the body deciding whether a planning permit should be issued) is the Minister for Planning, as is the case for most wind farms. Submissions to the proposed wind farm will be referred by the Minister for Planning to an independent planning panel. The role of a panel is to give submitters an opportunity to be heard in an informal, non-judicial manner. At the conclusion of the hearing the Panel will make recommendations to the Minister for Planning on the merits of the proposal and whether the planning permit should be approved or refused.



View from Hamilton Highway - Photomontage after construction



View from Hamilton Highway - before construction

It is likely that the panel will conduct hearings locally, possibly in Berrybank or Lismore. A hearing is conducted in a relatively informal manner. People are encouraged to represent themselves and may be present at the hearings at any time. People not wishing to make a submission at the hearing are welcome to attend the hearing which is open to the public.

If an expert witness is called, normally cross-examination (questioning) of the witness by other presenters will be allowed by the panel. Submitters are not cross-examined but may be asked questions by the panel to clarify their submission.

The panel will usually hold a short separate hearing before the main hearing at which any submissions are presented so that organisational and other matters (e.g. exchange of information) can be arranged. This is commonly called a 'directions hearing'. All people who made a submission about the amendment will be sent a 'Request to be Heard' form. They should complete and return the form if they wish to be heard at the panel hearing. Attendance at a panel is not compulsory and submitters can choose not to present their submission.

All submissions will be considered by the Panel, whether or not it is verbally presented.

The possible panel dates are as follows (please note that these dates are preliminary and subject to change)

Directions Hearing: December 2009

Panel Hearing: Late January/February 2010

Project Benefits

In simple terms, the proposed Berrybank wind farm is likely to stimulate the economy in the Corangamite and Golden Plains Shires as a result of greater income generation and subsequent expenditure in the region.

It is estimated that up to 240 full-time jobs will be created during the 12 to 14 month construction period. Personnel employed will contribute to the local economy via expenditure of a portion of their salaries and demand for goods and services such as accommodation, food and entertainment.





Furthermore, the wind farm will require up to 25 full-time permanent staff for the lifespan of the project. This will increase demand for local services such as:

- Health care
- Accommodation
- Schools
- Child care
- Recreational facilities
- Retail stores
- Hospitality
- Entertainment venues

Based on current estimates for the total number of turbines, the wind farm will contribute substantially to Shire Councils as a result of annual electricity generation rate payments. Over the life of the project, the rates paid will assist in funding local services and infrastructure. The wind farm will also contribute to the economy through corporate taxes.

Additionally, the wind farm provides a new source of revenue to the region and helps to diversify the economic base of the local economy which will enable it to better withstand common rural problems such as drought and declines in commodity prices.

Further Reading

Union Fenosa encourages residents to fully inform themselves when forming a position on any wind farm project. Much information is available on the internet, and recently on TV, and some of this is credible and some of it is not. As with any new technology, there are many myths that circulate about wind farms. In deciding on whether information is accurate and reliable, it is important to distinguish between:

- Peer-reviewed studies that are subject to rigorous review and criticism through a formal process involving experts in relevant fields, and;
- Speculation that represents one or more individuals' opinions

The former holds more weight than the latter. Below is a range of web links from sources that provide answers using factual, independent, peer-reviewed knowledge on commonly raised issues to wind farms.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2111-wind.asp

www.canwea.ca/questions-about-wind_e.php

www.bwea.com/

www.wind-energy-the-facts.org

