

HORSHAM REGIONAL CITY COUNCIL
RIFLE BUTTS RD
608-686 >

Rifle Butts Wind Farm

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

About NewEn

NewEn is a family owned wind farm developer based in Germany, where it has developed many wind farms over the past 15 years.

NewEn Australia is the Australian subsidiary of the company and has developed several wind farms in Western Victoria. We are a relatively small company when compared to many of our industry counterparts, but have a great deal of experience in this field and pride ourselves on our commitment to the community and the environment.

As a family-owned company, NewEn has always had a personal approach to business. We fully believe in a hands-on attitude, where the people who oversee the company are responsible for its day-to-day operations.

It's a philosophy that works well and together with our long family tradition has significantly contributed to NewEn's success.

The Project

Location: 18km south-west of Horsham

Capacity: Up to 40MW

Turbines: 9 -13

Status: Undertaking environmental assessments

NewEn is in the early stages of developing the Rifle Butts Wind Farm, which is situated some 18 kilometers south-west of Horsham, Victoria and about five kilometers west of the township of Wonwondah.

An initial community meeting was held at the Wonwondah Hall in November 2016 to inform the local community about the potential wind farm.

The wind farm site is located next to an existing 66kV transmission line capable of transmitting 27MW of capacity. Most modern wind turbines have a capacity of about 3MW, therefore the project would incorporate nine wind turbine generators. However, studies are underway to evaluate the transmission line for a potential increase in capacity (probably not exceeding 40MW) in which case there may be up to 13 wind turbines.

In November last year we stated that we would need to measure the wind for at least six months prior to investing in further development work. A 'LIDAR' measurement unit was installed in January to measure the wind and the results have been encouraging. Since then we have undertaken flora and fauna and bird and bat studies and introduced the project to the Victorian Government department responsible for wind farm applications – the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). DELWP representatives have been to visit the site.

What is happening now?

- An 85 metre meteorology mast will be installed, which can measure the wind more accurately than the existing LIDAR unit.
- Various development works and assessments have been commissioned, including:
 - Cultural heritage;
 - Visual aspect;
 - Background noise evaluations;
 - Traffic management;
 - Aeronautical impact;
 - Geotechnical; and
 - Hydrological.



Next steps

If the various studies and assessments fulfill the expected criteria, a **Planning Permit Application will be prepared**. It is anticipated that an application may be lodged with DELWP by November this year and – if accepted – DELWP may issue a planning permit by early 2018.

A planning permit does not guarantee the project will proceed to construction. Further negotiations would be required including a Transmission Network Agreement with Powercor and a Power Purchase Agreement with a party willing to take and pay for the renewable electricity generated by the wind farm.

Finally, NewEn Australia will need to find a party willing to purchase the project to become the owner/operator for its estimated life of 25 years.

It is usual that the owner/operator will then select a wind turbine model from the various international companies that provide turbines. A final decision on the number of turbines will be made dependent on pricing, the wind turbine models and their respective megawatt capacities.

Keeping you informed

NewEn Australia will continue to inform the community of the proposed Rifle Butts Wind Farm. A further community meeting will be held when the Planning Permit Application is lodged, expected to be about November.

If you have any queries or would like to learn about NewEn's earlier projects please visit the website at www.newen.com.au.

Alternatively you can contact our Australian Director Ernst Weyhausen on 0427 768 387 or ernst@newen.com.au