

Newsletter | Edition 8 | April 2021

WILLATOOK

Wind Farm



AT A GLANCE

Turbines

Up to 75

Turbine height

Up to 250 metres

Rates payable

Estimated at \$500,000 per year,
for 25 years

Local Government Area

Moynesshire

Responsible Authority

Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

Landholders

21

Installed capacity

Up to 450 megawatts (MW)

Power generation

About 1500 gigawatt hours
(GWh) per year

Homes powered

About 300,000

Battery storage

Yes

Emission savings

About 1.7 million tonnes of
CO₂ per year

Project status

Preparing Environment
Effects Statement

Construction

About two years

Project lifespan

25 years plus

PROJECT UPDATE

Wind Prospect is continuing to progress the Willatook Wind Farm proposal. Since our last update work has focused on completing a range of specialist studies that will inform the Environment Effects Statement, which is planned to be completed in the second half of this year.

As you may have seen, we have developed a detailed Benefit Sharing Program flyer, which was distributed via letterbox drop in December. Thank you to those who have contacted us about the program; please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any queries about the program or the project in general. Under the Benefit Sharing Program neighbours within six kilometres of a constructed wind turbine will receive annual payments of between \$1,000 and \$30,000 every year for the life of the wind farm, plus up to \$2,000 in annual energy cost offsets. The program also includes establishing a Community Benefit Fund. Our 'snapshot' of the program is included on page 2 of this newsletter.

Brolga, bat and heritage studies have continued at the project site, following COVID regulations and protocols. Our meetings with the government appointed Technical Reference Group and the Community Engagement Committee have also continued.

The main focus for the team has been refining the project design in response to specialist environmental studies and incorporating feedback received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and other stakeholders. As a result of this work, buffers around potential Brolga breeding and foraging habitat have been revised. We are aiming to finalise the project design soon and present it at community drop-in sessions, which we will advertise once the design is completed.

Warm regards,
The team at Wind Prospect



BENEFIT SHARING PROGRAM

In December we shared with you the Willatook Wind Farm Benefit Sharing Program, via a flyer that detailed the criteria of the program and proposed payments to near neighbours and the broader community.

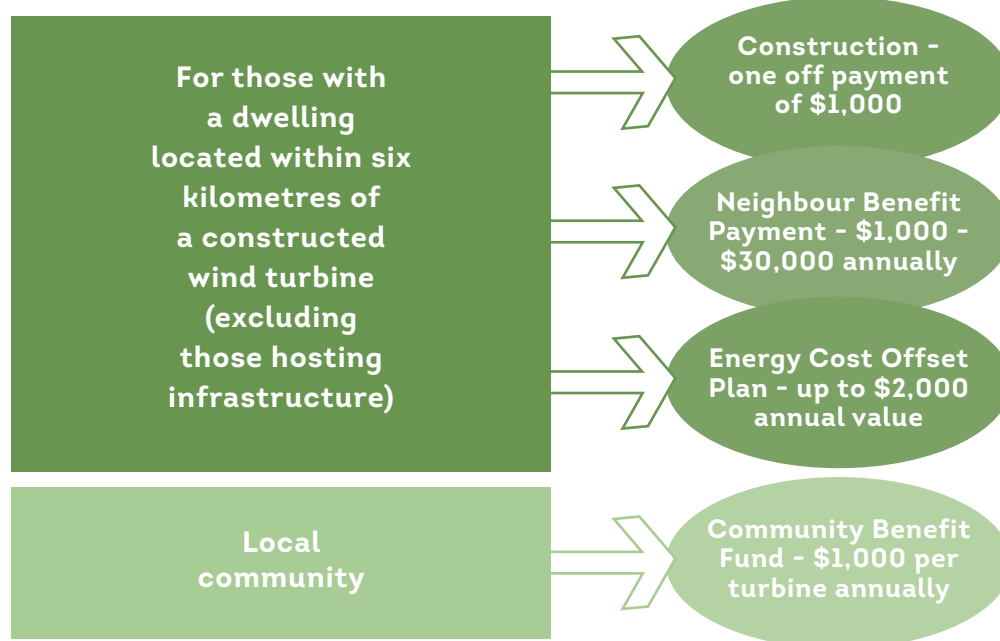
Information about individuals' eligibility for the program will be available at our upcoming drop-in sessions, which will be advertised following the completion of our revised project design.

If you have any queries in the meantime about the benefit sharing program, and what it means for you, please don't hesitate to make contact.

Under the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program:

IF YOU	YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR
Own a dwelling located within six kilometres of a constructed wind turbine	The Neighbour Benefit Payment
Live in a dwelling located within six kilometres of a constructed wind turbine	The Energy Cost Offset Plan
Are an owner occupier of a dwelling located within six kilometres of a constructed wind turbine	The Neighbour Benefit Payment and the Energy Cost Offset Plan
Are hosting wind farm infrastructure	Neither the Neighbour Benefit Payment, Energy Cost Offset Plan, or Construction Payment
Are eligible for the Neighbour Benefit Payment	A one-off construction payment of \$1000

BENEFIT SHARING SNAPSHOT



BATTERY STORAGE

A battery storage facility of up to 200MW capacity is proposed to be located next to the project's substation.

The battery system will capture and store energy and export that energy at times when electricity demand is high.

Battery storage systems can dispatch stored electricity immediately when required.

Batteries can also stabilise the grid, reducing the frequency of blackouts and the need for load shedding when there is a supply imbalance.

The facility will be up to two hectares in size within the project site and incorporate a series of 20-foot containerised batteries and other electrical infrastructure, as well as fire protection systems.

BROLGA STUDIES

Extensive desktop and field studies have been undertaken over the last decade. These studies have mapped known Brolga habitat and nesting locations, as well as investigated potential Brolga habitat areas out to 10 kilometres from the project boundary.

The most recent surveys have included monthly Brolga breeding and flocking surveys in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Breeding season surveys focused on all wetlands within the wind farm site and out to five kilometres from the project boundary. These surveys were complemented by aerial surveys in 2010 and 2018 which covered an area out to 10 kilometres from the project boundary, and individual consultations with 37 local landowners in 2018.

These landowners accepted an invitation to share Brolga and other flora and fauna information with our specialist ecologists. The invitation was sent to all landholders within 10 kilometres of the project boundary.

Hydrology surveys of wetland areas within the wind farm site and neighbouring area have also been undertaken to better understand the potential breeding habitat for Brolga.

These studies are being used to shape the new project design. We will share the findings of these studies with you, in conjunction with our new project design, in an upcoming Brolga fact sheet.



MEET OUR NEW PROJECT MANAGER

Wind Prospect welcomes **Michael Sale** to the team, as our new Development Manager.

Michael joined us earlier this year and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Willatook Wind Farm project.

Prior to joining Wind Prospect Michael spent more than 12 years as an environmental consultant for a range of developments in the energy, mining and infrastructure sectors, primarily focused on managing environment impact assessments across Australia, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar.

He has also undertaken ecological research throughout Victoria and islands in Bass Strait.

Michael is looking forward to leading the Willatook Wind Farm project and we welcome him to the team!



SPONSORSHIP FUND ALLOCATIONS

Willatook Hall Committee

\$2,500

The Willatook Hall Committee applied for funding to trim trees around the hall. The Willatook Hall – which dates to 1933 – had a protective plantation of trees on the south and west. Initially screened by pine trees, these were replaced with indigenous species in 2003. This grant has enabled the leaning trees to be removed and the pruning of those that remain.

Koroit Cricket Club

\$4,000

The Koroit Cricket Club applied for funding to support its plans to install a recycled PVC picket boundary fence to the Jack Keane Oval. A turf wicket on this oval is used for cricket games and the fence provides the oval with clear definition and separates the play from spectators. This \$4,000 was combined with other funding sources to complete the fence.

Local family in need

The Willatook Wind Farm sponsorship fund also provided assistance to a local family who lost their home and belongings in a house fire.



If you have a project that needs funding, or know of a community group that needs a hand, please give us a call or visit our website for details on the sponsorship fund.



CONTACT US

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