

PYKES HILL WIND FARM

March 2010

Future Energy's application for Development Approval to construct a three-turbine wind farm at Pykes Hill (approximately 5 km north-east of Ballan) is now open for public comment, and is available for viewing at the Moorabool Shire Council or our website www.pykeshillwindfarm.com.au

Summary

The proposed wind farm will produce 6 megawatts of electricity from its three turbines – that is enough to power over 3000 homes and offset around 18,000 tonnes CO₂ each year. The turbines will have a tower height of 80m and a blade length of 50m, and will be around 400m apart. The connecting cables and the connection to the existing 22 kV power line running along the Ballan-Greendale Rd will all be laid underground.

Why Pykes Hill?

Many areas are not suitable for the development of wind farms. Pykes Hill however, is an excellent location for several reasons including:

- Undisturbed wind flow with strong, consistent wind speeds to maximise energy generation
- Good setbacks from residences, tourist routes and major roadways to minimise local impact
- Close proximity to the local electrical grid, and
- Minimal impact on flora and fauna as the land is already used for farming

Why is it important to generate renewable energy?

Climate change has serious implications for the environment, economy and society as a whole. With the major cause of climate change being greenhouse emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, renewable energy, such as that generated by wind, is one way to reduce greenhouse emissions and help fight climate change.

Timeline

The public notice period for the Planning Application runs from the 15th February to 14th March with the decision by the council likely before mid year. If the council grants Development Approval we expect the wind farm to be built and commissioned within 2 years.

Support a renewable energy future for Australia

It is important that council receives input about this proposal from a representative cross section of the local community. If you believe we should be doing more to reduce our carbon emissions, show your support for this project by signing the enclosed letter and returning it to the Moorabool Shire Council, PO Box 18, Ballan, 3342 by March 13th 2010.

Feedback from meetings with local residents

Q: Will you install more turbines later on?

A: No. If Development Approval is granted it will only be for three turbines. More importantly, the 22kv power line that runs through Greendale is not capable of accepting additional power beyond the output of three turbines, and it will not be economically viable to upgrade the line.

Q: Will there be flashing red lights on each turbine?

A: No. The authority that dictates lighting obligations (CASA) has confirmed that no night lighting will be required on the Pykes Hill wind farm.

Q: Will the value of my property be affected?

A: There is no evidence that it will. A house on Ballan-Greendale Rd, approximately 1.9 km from the proposed wind farm, sold for the asking price late 2009. The timing of the sale was around the time of our information days and the purchaser was aware of the proposal. International research also supports this:

“Neither the view of the wind energy facilities nor the distance of the home to those facilities was found to have any consistent, measurable, and significant effect on the selling prices of nearby homes” <http://www.bard.edu/cep/news/release.php?id+1803>

Q: Does low frequency noise from wind turbines cause any health effects?

A: No. Under average conditions, any noise from wind turbines is usually inaudible over a few hundred metres. Furthermore, despite many studies, there is no scientific data to suggest that the levels of low frequency noise from wind turbines cause any health effects. The quote below is from one of the many scientific studies done worldwide regarding low frequency noise.

“It may therefore be concluded that infrasound associated with modern wind turbines is not a source which will result in noise levels which may be injurious to the health of a wind farm neighbour”

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file31270.pdf>

For further information please visit the Clean Energy Council website:

<http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/technologies/wind/turbinefactsheets>

Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like more information about this project, wish to arrange a house visit, or would like to provide any feedback, please contact Future Energy Pty Ltd on (03) 9429 5629, email us at info@futureenergy.com.au, or review the project website www.pykeshillwindfarm.com.au

