# **Community Benefit Fund Announcement**

We wanted to thank all those who submitted applications for the recent funding round. The decision was difficult, due to the high quality of applications, but four organisations were selected as recipients:

- The Bungaree Recreation Reserve
- Mt Buninyong CFA
- Elaine Cricket Club
- Dunnstown Netball Club

The next round will occur early in 2018. Refer to the website and project updates for timing and due dates for applications.

A total of \$20,000 was provided to local organisations in the first round of funding. The project has increased its annual funding commitment from \$60,000 to \$100,000 (plus CPI). The full funding amount will commence once construction starts.

#### Construction

Vestas and Zenviron have been selected as the principal Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractors for delivering the project. Vestas will supply and install the wind turbines and Zenviron will carry out the civil and electrical work. Zenviron is one of Australia and New Zealand's leading renewable energy sector engineering and construction contractors. Vestas, which has produced wind turbines since 1979, is the only global energy company dedicated exclusively to wind energy.

Construction is expected to commence by the end of this year, with works on the ground commencing in early 2018. Updates will be provided regarding construction timeframes as available.

During construction the project will generate employment opportunities. As the project approaches construction, employment opportunities will be advertised on the Lal Lal Wind Farms website (www.lallalwindfarms.com.au).

#### **Wind Farm Site Visit**

A site visit to an operating wind farm is being organised for interested members of the community.

The aim is to help provide an understanding of the scale of the project, including potential impacts. It also provides an opportunity for community members to ask questions about the project and about wind energy in general.

The site visit will likely take place in November 2017, but additional information will be available once a date and location have been confirmed.

If you would like to register your interest in the site visit, please contact us as per the details at the end of this update.

## Lal Lal Wind Farm Open Day

Preparation for the Lal Lal Wind Farms Open Day is underway. The open day is an opportunity for you to meet the team involved in developing and building the project and learn more about the project, including, noise, construction planning, visual and landscape and any likely impacts. The open day will be held on Thursday, November 16 at the Bungaree Community Centre from noon-8pm.

## **Background noise monitoring**

The project has recently completed a background noise monitoring program at various locations around the wind farm. The results of which will form part of the Noise Compliance Testing Plan that the project is currently preparing as a requirement under the Planning Permit.

# Voluntary Landscape Screening Program

The voluntary landscape screening program has been established and is underway, as is required under the amended Planning Permit for the Lal Lal Wind Farms.

The voluntary landscape screening program will strategically use vegetation (i.e. trees and shrubs) to screen visible turbines from affected dwellings located within 4km of a turbine. The program involves a site visit and meeting with a landscape architect, and subsequently, preparation of a dwelling landscape plan.

The full cost of the design, implementation and maintenance of the landscaping under the program is to be met by Lal Lal Wind Farms, as agreed between Lal Lal Wind Farms and the landowner.

The image to the right, shows an example of how the landscape screening under the program is achieved, via screening the areas from the dwelling which would have views to the wind farm.

The plan will not include architectural landscaping features, boundary shelter belts, revegetation, land rehabilitation or similar. The plan also will not include the use of exotic species or mature trees.

Owners of properties within 4km of a turbine who would like to determine their eligibility in the program are encouraged to contact us, as per the details at the end of this update.

## Macquarie Capital Purchase of Lal Lal Wind Farm

Earlier in the year, Macquarie Capital acquired the Lal Lal Wind Farms from WestWind Energy. WestWind Energy staff will continue to assist Macquarie Capital on the project during the transition of ownership.

The sale of the project followed the granting of the Amended Planning Permit, which included changes to allow an increased maximum tip height of 161m and a reduced total number of turbines to 60. Macquarie Capital has commenced work on the implementation and construction of the project, as outlined within this project update.

### **Project Communications**

A dedicated project website is being set-up and will be accessible here: www.lallalwindfarms.com.au

In addition to keeping up to date via the website, if you want to register to receive email updates (such as this project update) please register your email address by emailing your name and contact details to info@lalalwindfarms.com.au

If you have any questions about the project or would like to register your interest for the landscape program or the wind farm visit, please contact us on (03) 5421 9999 or email info@lalalwindfarms.com.au

