

A blue banner with a white silhouette of a person on a hill on the left and several wind turbines on the right. The text "Grasmere Wind Farm Feasibility Study" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the bottom of the banner.

Grasmere Wind Farm Feasibility Study

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE NUMBER 1

November 2005

The Albany Wind Farm was built in 2001 and has proven to be a valuable and successful renewable energy project.

To date this wind farm has generated around 300 million units of electricity, making it one of the most productive wind farms in the world.

Albany Wind Farm has also been a community success. The City of Albany estimates that around 100,000 people per year make the short journey to Sandpatch to take in the sight of the windfarm's 12 giant turbines and the spectacular scenery from the cliffs over the Southern Ocean.

When this facility was built the wind farm was producing 75% of Albany's power. Since then the town's electrical requirements have increased by 30%, from annual electricity consumption of 107 million units to 135 million units. Hence the proportion coming from renewable energy has fallen.

Western Power is looking to add more wind turbines, as a means of restoring the level of renewable energy used in Albany.

THE STUDY

A feasibility study is underway into the addition of another seven wind turbines adjacent to the existing Albany Wind Farm. Attached is a map showing the proposed locations for the extra turbines.

You or your organisation have been identified as likely to be interested in this study. Western Power will send you updates and encourages your involvement in the feasibility process.

To give the new project its own identity, it will be known as the Grasmere Wind Farm in recognition of Grasmere Hill, a local landmark.

During the six-month study, Western Power's Sustainable Energy Branch will examine the social, environmental, technical and financial aspects of the proposed facility.

The excellent results achieved with the original Albany Wind Farm processes and procedures will be duplicated for this feasibility study. Western Power appreciates the environmental sensitivities of the site and will be diligent about its management procedures.

Community consultation is underway and discussions started with the relevant government agencies such as the Departments of Environment and Conservation and Land Management, and the Albany City Council.

PROPOSED WIND FARM

In effect, the proposed Grasmere Wind Farm will be an extension of the Albany Wind Farm, appearing as a continuation to the west of this facility along the coast.

Each of the seven new wind turbines proposed has a capacity of 2000 kilowatts, slightly more than the 1800 kilowatt output of the existing turbines.

The three blades are slightly longer and have a different shape, but the machines have exactly the same tower height – in effect they look identical to the existing units.

Grasmere is proposed to have a capacity of 14MW and will be able to produce about 50 million units of electricity a year in normal wind conditions. Combined, the Albany Wind Farm and Grasmere Wind Farm could produce in an average year enough electricity to meet around 90% of Albany's requirements.

Every effort will be made to use the same siting pattern and machine placement parallel to the coast. A new underground cable is proposed to connect the new wind farm to the Albany substation and the local power network.

Like the existing wind farm, Western Power will ensure that no one is able to hear the wind turbines from their property and extensive visual analyses will be used to study any visual affect from the new facility.

A viewing platform in one of the wind turbines is not proposed for the Grasmere project. While it would have been a wonderful extra facility, the turbine manufacturer has advised that the site wind speeds were too high for a viewing platform to be built without compromising structural safety.

During the feasibility study Western Power will examine other ways to contribute to the Albany community.

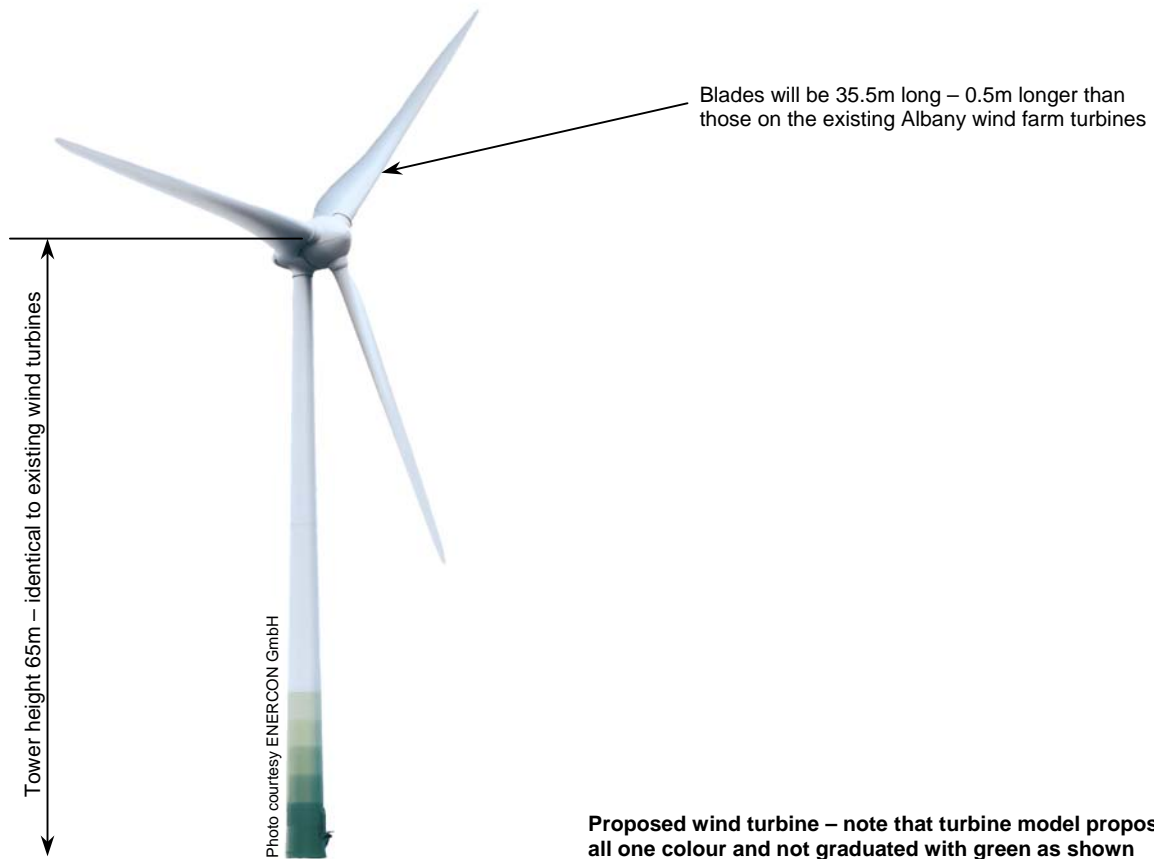
The feasibility study should be finished by April 2006 and the Grasmere wind farm could be built in 2007 if the study is positive and approvals are obtained.

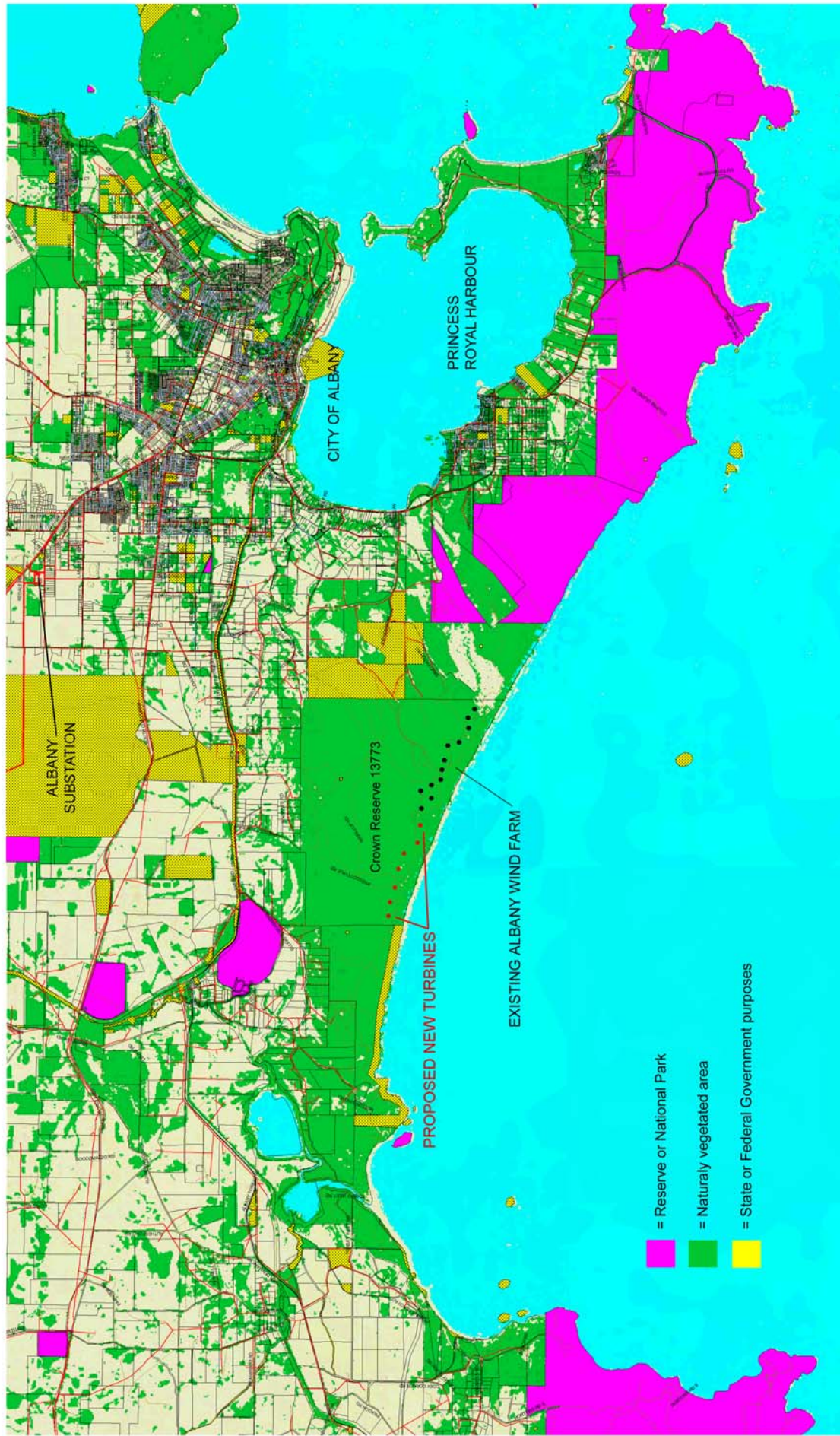
INFORMATION

If you would like more information please contact the project's director whose contact details are listed below. Western Power encourages you to have a voice in this study, so please contact us if you would like to contribute or if you know of a person or organisation which could be added to our list of interested stakeholders.

Dr Paul Ebert
Grasmere Wind Farm Director
Western Power Generation
PO Box L921
Perth WA 6842
Ph: (08) 9326 6095
e-mail: wp_windfarms@westernpower.com.au

SPECIFICATIONS – PROPOSED GRASMERE WIND FARM	
Turbines	7 x 2000kW inverter coupled ENERCON E70
Blade length	35.5m
Tower height	65m
Colour	Identical to existing Albany wind turbines
Start up wind speed	2.5 m/s (9 km/h)
Shutdown wind speed	34 m/s (122 km/h)
Max. wind speed	70 m/s (252 km/h)





CADASTRAL IMAGE: ALBANY AREA SHOWING EXISTING ALBANY WIND FARM & PROPOSED LOCATION OF NEW TURBINES
 Legend shows land usage. Black lines show property boundary & roads, while red lines show electrical infrastructure.