

A blue banner at the top of the page. On the left, a silhouette of a person stands on a hill. In the center, several wind turbines are silhouetted against a light sky. The text "Grasmere Wind Farm Feasibility Study" is written in a white, serif font across the banner.

Grasmere Wind Farm Feasibility Study

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE NUMBER 2

February 2006

The Grasmere wind farm feasibility study commenced in October 2005 and is aimed at assessing the potential to add seven wind turbines to the existing Albany wind farm.

This second update is being made available to people, groups and organisations with an interest in the project – we call them Stakeholders and believe they are very important in the feasibility process.

This update informs our Stakeholders about the feasibility study progress and to encourage you to give feedback about the proposed project.

NAME CHANGE

Western Power is being separated into four separate new businesses, effective from 3 April, 2006. This has some implications for the proposed Grasmere wind farm.

The section of Western Power that owns and runs the existing Albany wind farm and is undertaking the Grasmere Feasibility Study is part of the business which generates electricity. This “generation” business will become one of the new businesses, under the new name “Verve Energy”.

Verve Energy will be a very different organisation to the present Western Power, concentrating solely on the generation of electricity. While it will generate most of its electricity from coal and gas, Verve Energy will have a strong focus on increasing renewable energy supplies in the future.



Hence, come April 2006 the existing Albany wind farm will be owned by Verve Energy. The Grasmere Feasibility Study will also be taken to conclusion by Verve Energy which, if the wind farm were built, would own and operate the facility.

Verve Energy will still be owned by the State Government.

FLORA STUDY

In December a local Albany botanist conducted a flora survey of the proposed wind farm area. Such work is required to ensure that rare and endangered plants are protected.

During any construction, Western Power would undertake flora management including the collection of native seed from the area for use in any rehabilitation required. As well, very tight clearing limits would keep vegetation disturbance to an absolute minimum.

Similar processes were used in the existing Albany wind farm and proved very successful.

PLANNING APPROVAL & PUBLIC DISPLAY

As part of the feasibility study, Western Power will apply for Planning Approval with the City of Albany, probably in March or April this year.

This approval is a public process and we encourage you to take part. Western Power will hold a public display in Albany to provide residents with information, plans, results of studies and other information as part of this process. Dates and times will be forwarded and advertised when known.

BIBBULMUN TRACK

The Bibbulmun Track crosses land on which the proposed Grasmere wind farm is to be built. Discussions with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) indicate that a realignment of the track will be necessary.

A similar realignment undertaken for the existing Albany wind farm resulted in a new and very popular route much closer to the ocean. Boardwalks were also added to protect the track from erosion caused by wind and increased numbers of tourists drawn by the wind farm.

A new track alignment and the location of the Hidden Valley walkers hut, which lies within the area proposed for the wind farm, are being assessed as part of the feasibility study. It is likely that any new alignment will be along the coastline, closer to the ocean. Noise studies will determine if the hut is to be relocated and, if so, to where.

If the Grasmere Wind Farm were built, any Bibbulmun Track realignment work would be paid for by Western Power.

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.

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- Apology -
In the last update the email address was quoted incorrectly. The correct address is now shown to the left. We apologise for any inconvenience this caused and thank those individuals who picked this up.

