

PROPOSED

Milyeannup Wind Farm



Q&A

What is the Milyeannup Wind Farm?

Verve Energy is carrying out a feasibility study to investigate construction of a new wind farm of up to 37 wind turbines, on the south coast at Milyeannup, about 20kms east of Augusta. The wind farm will be located on 1200 hectares of privately-owned land. The wind turbines will be at least 500m from the shoreline and be placed at least 300m apart.

The wind farm will cost approximately \$160 million and take approximately two years to build.

How much power can the proposed wind farm produce?

The wind farm will have a capacity of 55MW, generating enough clean, renewable electricity each year to power 26,000 households or the combined household electricity use in the surrounding Shires south of Bunbury and west of Walpole. (1)

Why choose the Milyeannup area?

Investigations of wind farm potential on the south coast have been carried out since the 1980s with wind prospecting masts being installed in the south west during the 1990s. Since 2003, Verve Energy has been collecting data about the wind resource at the Milyeannup site.

The Milyeannup Wind farm site was selected because:

- the wind resource is suitable for development;
- the site is close to a high voltage transmission line (Beenup 132 kV transmission line) for connection to the electricity grid;
- the area is sparsely populated;
- it is a better wind farm site than others in the area.

What work has been done to date?

During the feasibility study, which commenced in April 2008, Verve Energy has undertaken preliminary designs, gained agreement with land owners, discussed statutory and legislative issues with the Shire of Nannup and undertaken environmental studies. The study, which includes a community consultation period, will take the project through to a decision on whether or not to proceed. The study is due to be finalised by mid-2009.

Following the community consultation and other studies, we will make a Development Application to the Shire of Nannup.

If all milestones are met, the feasibility study is positive and approvals to proceed are received, construction could start towards the middle of 2010.

What kind of wind turbines are envisaged?

We are yet to make a final decision on the wind turbine supplier, but the wind turbine towers will be up to 85m tall with three rotor blades up to 50m long.

What will be the affect on the environment?

Wind turbines generate electricity without atmospheric pollution.

However, a small area of land does need to be cleared to erect the turbines. Roads are constructed to each turbine and a small laydown area is cleared to assemble each turbine. The roads and laydown area remain once construction is complete, to allow access for maintenance purposes.

Verve Energy has commissioned flora, fauna, archaeological and ethnographic studies which so far show that the proposed level of disturbance will have minimal affect. The studies did identify some areas of the site that must be avoided to prevent specific plants or animals being disturbed. The final wind farm design will place turbines so that such areas are avoided.

What about power lines?

Power lines between turbines within the wind farm will be underground. An overhead transmission line will connect the wind farm substation to the Beenup transmission line, a distance of 14 kilometres. The final route of the transmission line will be determined by Western Power in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Will I be able to see the wind farm?

Yes, the wind farm will be visible, to varying degrees, from viewpoints around the area including: Augusta and Cape Leeuwin lighthouse (20 km west of proposed wind farm), Black Point (15 km east of proposed wind farm) and White Point (7 km east of proposed wind farm). The wind farm will be barely visible on the horizon from Augusta.

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Verve Energy will provide photo-montages of the wind farm at the public displays in Nannup and Augusta to illustrate how the wind farm will look from these viewpoints.

What about noise?

Wind turbines generate noise primarily through the action of the blades swishing through the air. Due to the remote location of the wind farm the noise will only be heard by a few residents near the wind farm. Noise levels will not exceed allowed limits.

Are wind farms reliable?

Wind farms have availability rates of approximately 98%, comparable to traditional fossil-fuelled power stations. Like wind farms, traditional power stations are not able to operate all the time without stopping for maintenance or unplanned outages. Wind farms have the inherent advantage that maintenance on a single turbine equates to only a small percentage of the generating capacity of the wind farm.

What if there is no wind?

The wind farm will be connected to the main power grid. When the wind is blowing the wind farm will produce electricity which will flow into the grid, displacing fossil fuel generation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. When the wind is not blowing the electricity will be provided in the same way it is now, from other generators.

Why a wind farm?

Wind farms produce no greenhouse gas emissions and are an alternative way in which we can generate electricity without using fossil fuels.

Will our electricity cost more if we have a wind farm?

Electricity tariffs will not change as a result of a wind farm being built at Milyeannup.

Can I have a say in this proposed wind farm?

Yes. It is very important that people do have a say and Verve Energy encourages you to comment at any time. Importantly, the feasibility study includes public displays and a range of opportunities for you to provide feedback.

How do I get more information?

We will keep the community informed about the status of this project. In the meantime you can contact Shaun Curran or Peter Winner at any time to discuss this or any other Verve Energy wind farm project.

Shaun Curran 08 9424 1803 or 0439 994 874
Peter Winner 08 9424 1977 or 0429 041 840

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(1) Based on average residential electricity consumption per household of 19 kWh daily from DEWHA 2008 report *Energy Use in the Australian Residential Sector 1986-2020*.

MAP SHOWING PROPOSED MILYEANNUP WIND FARM SITE.

