

Proposed Mumbida Wind Farm Feasibility Study



STAKEHOLDER UPDATE NUMBER 1

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Verve Energy is doing a feasibility study to construct a new wind farm south-east of Geraldton, near Walkaway. The proposed project, known as the Mumbida Wind Farm, will have up to 42 wind turbines which will produce about 80MW of electricity. This will significantly increase the amount of renewable energy in WA. This is equivalent to the energy consumption of approximately 50,000 households and will offset around 240,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

The Mumbida Wind Farm feasibility study is due for completion in mid-2009. Verve Energy is examining the social, environmental, technical, financial and business aspects of the proposed wind farm. Whether the wind farm is built will be decided when the feasibility study is completed. If the wind farm project proceeds, construction could commence in early 2010, and the wind farm be operational by late 2011.

This is the first stakeholder update for the proposed Mumbida Wind Farm. It is available to people, groups and organisations with an interest in the project. You or your organisation have been identified as likely to be interested in this study. These newsletters are aimed at providing you with updates on the feasibility study and we encourage your feedback.

Background

Back in 2002 this wind farm site was investigated and approvals were obtained for the construction of a 30MW wind farm. The project did not proceed at that time due to a lack of electricity network capacity.

Verve Energy resumed investigations into the Mumbida Wind Farm after Western Power announced plans to increase network capacity by building a new 330,000 volt transmission line from Eneabba to Moonyoonooka (near Geraldton).

Increase in wind farm size

Discussions with Western Power about network access capacity has resulted in Verve Energy now considering an 80MW wind farm, comprised of up to 42 larger wind turbines.

Wind turbine type

Selection of the wind turbine is a significant step for any wind farm development. As a result of a detailed expression of interest process, Verve Energy is working with a number of wind turbine

manufacturers and a decision on which wind turbine will be used for the proposed Mumbida Wind Farm will be made in the coming months.

Development approval process

The next major step for the project will be the submission of a Development Application (DA) to the City of Geraldton-Greenough for consideration. A DA approved for the original wind farm in 2002 has lapsed, which, combined with the new design and size of the proposed wind farm, means a new application is needed. This new DA will outline the proposed project in detail and will likely be submitted to the City of Geraldton-Greenough in January.



Photo courtesy of Suzlon.

CONTACT

We encourage your feedback on what will be a significant project for the Geraldton-Greenough region and for Verve Energy, by contacting:

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