



# MT FYANS WIND FARM PROJECT



**WOOLNORTH**  
WIND FARMS

NEWSLETTER

#3

December 2017

## Progress snapshot

Woolnorth has undertaken initial environmental and heritage assessments and is continuing to do further work in these areas.

We have commenced rolling out a benefit sharing scheme with our neighbours and we are gearing up for another community event to occur early next year. Feedback from our neighbours and the broader community will help shape our submission to the Victorian Government for planning approval.



## Green light on environmental assessment

In July 2017, Woolnorth submitted an application to the Victorian State Government to determine whether an Environmental Effects Statement would be required for the proposed Mt Fyans wind farm. This application included the findings of a range of technical assessments on:

- Endangered plants, animals and communities
- Noise from turbines and construction activities
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Cultural heritage and geoheritage.

We are pleased to announce that the Victorian State Government Minister for

Planning has determined that an Environmental Effects Statement is not required, so long as we undertake additional assessments for two species; the Southern Bentwing Bat and the Basalt Rustyhood orchid.



*Southern Bentwing Bat*  
Image credit: Steve Bourne 2014

The Southern Bentwing Bat is a critically endangered microbat that roosts underground. We are working

in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning to do further assessment of the potential utilisation of our project site by this bat species and confirm the suitability of our approach to address any possible effects and risks posed.

The Basalt Rustyhood is a small endangered orchid species known for its unique flower structure and pollination mechanism. We will be working in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning to do targeted autumn surveys of the project site to check for the presence of this orchid and

confirm our approach to avoid, minimise or offset any potential effects if the species is present.



*Basalt Rustyhood*  
Image credit: David Pitts 2017

Our additional assessments will be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning as required under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

### We're listening

We understand that key community concerns relate to the noise and visibility of our proposed wind farm.

Our next community event will address these issues and make space for you to raise questions in person. More details will be provided soon.

### Victoria a leader for renewables

The Victorian Government has committed to delivering a regulatory environment that provides much needed confidence for investment in renewable energy projects and jobs.

On 31 October 2017, Victoria became the first State in Australia to enshrine its

renewable energy targets into law.

Renewables currently make up 17% of Victoria's total installed electricity generation. Under the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET), the share of renewables will rise to 25% by 2020 and 40% by 2025.

### VRET FACTS

**1,250 jobs**

in construction projected to be created for regional Vic from initial VRET investment.

**\$146 million**

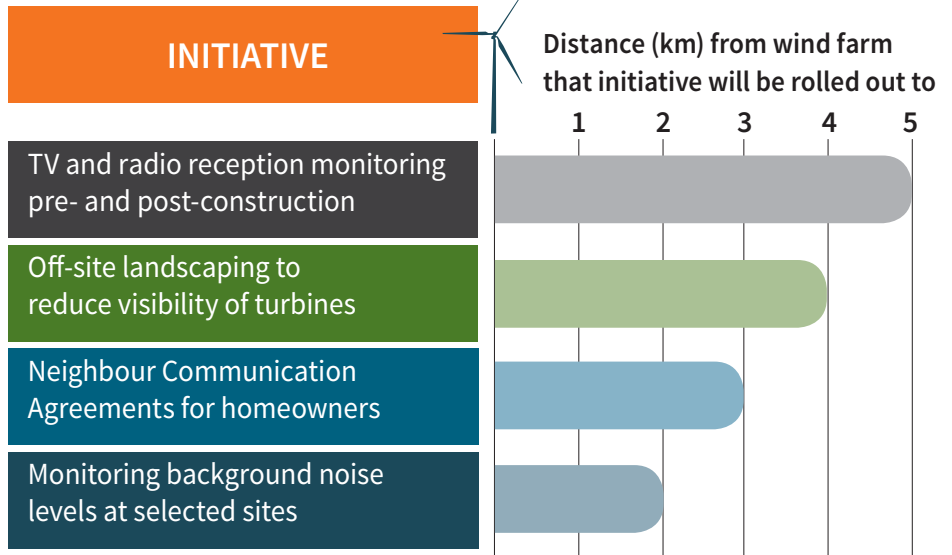
will be invested to deliver a reliable and affordable energy system through an associated Vic Gov Action Plan.



## Working with our neighbours

We have a number of initiatives that are either in the pipeline or already underway to ensure our project is mindful of nearby residents.

We will consider ways to share benefits with the broader community closer to construction.



## Breaking new ground in benefit sharing

Woolnorth Wind Farms is proud to be delivering a unique approach to sharing financial benefits with our neighbours.

Homeowners within 3km of wind turbines are being offered 'Neighbour Communication Agreements' that provide a series of payments in the initial phase of the project.

The payments are scaled according to both the number and distance of

turbines from homes.

In return, neighbours agree to communicate their view and ideas with Woolnorth throughout over the development, construction and operational stages of the project.

It is important to note that these are not 'gag agreements'. In no way do they prevent neighbours from opposing the project.

Woolnorth is committed to promoting open

communication and understanding with neighbours. We want to encourage and include neighbours in the development process.

We understand that the time people spend engaging with us and considering our proposal is valuable so these agreements allow us to share financial benefits from the project in return for communication from

a very important group of stakeholders.

Over the past year we have made efforts to reach out to all eligible homeowners.

We are now progressing to delivering agreements to all those who signalled a willingness to take part.

If you live within 3km of our proposed site and are concerned that we may have missed you, please contact us.

## Our newest team member

Carmen Whiteley has recently joined our team as Project Officer – Stakeholders. She is qualified in community engagement and environmental management, and is

experienced in working with farming stakeholders from previous roles in not-for-profits and government.

Carmen is your first point of contact for all enquiries.

She is looking forward to building strong connections in the community and will be travelling to the Mortlake district frequently as the project progresses.



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