OVERVIEW: September 2004

The Victorian Government has set a target of 1000MW of wind power by 2006. The groundwork for the expansion in Victoria's wind power has already been set with the publication of the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria*.

These guidelines provide a framework to ensure that wind farm developments occur in full consultation with the Victorian community and against a strict set of guidelines taking into account stringent environmental, economic, community and cultural considerations

Naroghid Wind Farm Pty Ltd (NWF) aims to contribute to this target through a wind farm at Naroghid in western Victoria. The project would produce up to 44MW of wind power - enough for up to 25,310 homes and requiring an investment of up of $66m. The project will help meet Victoria's growing need for electricity as well as providing manufacturing and construction jobs for local tradespeople in western Victoria.

BACKGROUND

NWF is a subsidiary of Wind Farm Developments (WFD) which was formed to develop, project manage, commission and operate utility scale wind farm developments in Australia and New Zealand. WFD has offices in Wellington, Melbourne and Adelaide, and is investigating projects in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. WFD secured development approval for the 103 MW Wattle Point wind farm on Yorke Peninsula in South Australia.

THE PROJECT

The proposed wind farm site is approximately 40 km inland from the coast in the Shire of Corangamite. Located about 7km south west of Camperdown and 10km south east of Terang, the project site (approximately 470ha) consists primarily of cleared agricultural land used for intensive dairy farming.

One of Corangamite Shire's landfill rubbish tips adjoins the site. It is anticipated that up to 22 wind turbines, totalling up to 44MW could be accommodated at the site.

The towers are expected to be up to 80m high, and the blades up to 45m long. Each turbine will be up to 125 metres in height to the tip of the blade.The wind turbines would typically be located at least 300 to 500m apart.

The electricity generated would be supplied directly into the 66kV line passing through the site providing pollution free and reliable power for western Victoria. To maximise the efficient production of energy from the wind and achieve economic viability, wind farms need to be located in areas with a good wind resource.

Map of western Victoria showing the location of the proposed Naroghid wind farm

A feasibility analysis confirms that the site:

- Has an excellent wind resource;
- Has been extensively cleared, resulting in low sensitivity in terms of ecologically significant flora and fauna; and
- Is very close to the 66kV electricity network that will accommodate the output.

Two flora and fauna studies were undertaken during the first half of 2004. A regulatory approval from the Commonwealth Government pursuant to the Environment Protection Biodiversity & Conservation Act was obtained in June 2004.

PROJECT TIMETABLE

A 50 metre mast with anemometers (wind measuring equipment) was erected on site in August 2003. Over 12 months of wind data has now been collected and analysed.

As the proposed wind farm is over 30MW, the Victorian Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for assessing the wind farm.

As part of this process, we are completing a series of detailed technical and environmental studies in order to meet regulatory standards and maximise the efficiency of the wind turbine layout.

Prior to finalising the design of the project, NWF are currently undertaking an extensive stakeholder and public consultation before lodging the Planning Application later in 2004. If development approval were obtained in early 2005, construction could begin in the second half of 2005 and be completed within 9-12 months.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

NWF considers public and government stakeholder consultation to be essential at all stages of the wind farm development.

In addition to fact sheets and information available on our website, there will also be an opportunity for the community to meet with the Project Team, learn more about the proposal and wind farms in general at the wind farm community open day.

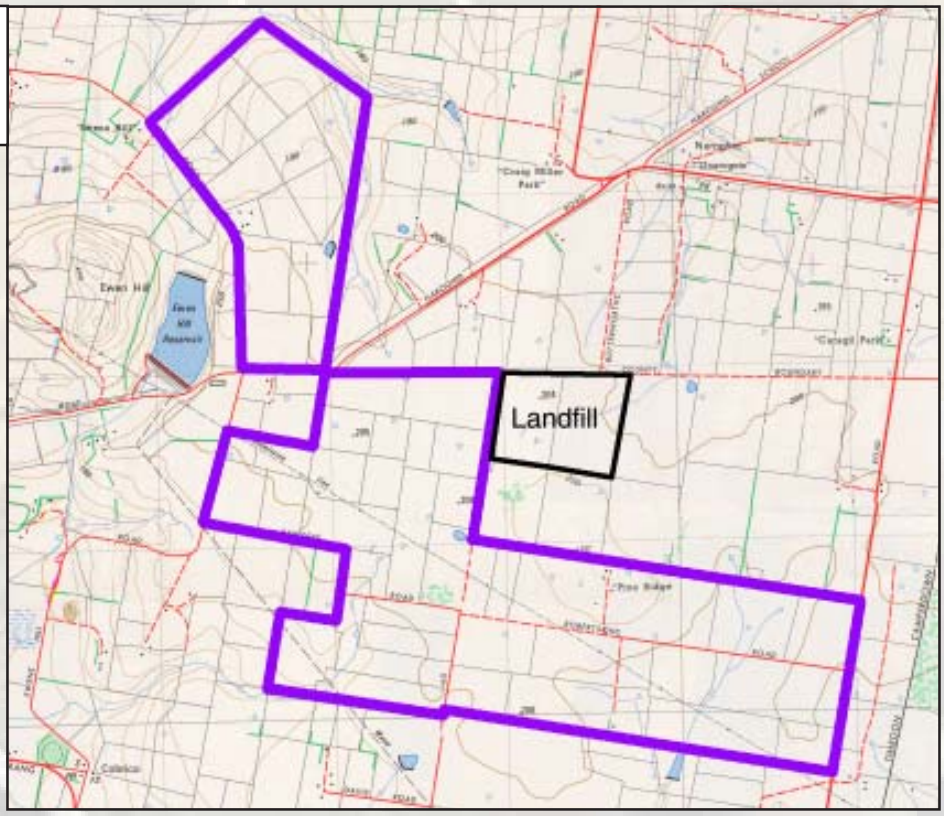
This will be held on **Thursday, September 16** at the **Cobrico Hall** (located on the corner of the Terang – Cobden Road and Ewen Hills Road) from **11am to 7pm**. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.

The proposed site of the Naroghid Wind Farm

STATISTICS

Electrical Capacity	**Up to 44 Megawatts**
Greenhouse Gas (Savings/year)	**175,375* tonnes**
Homes Powered	**25,310***
Equivalent Cars removed (from the road/year)	**40,500***

Site boundary map of the proposed Naroghid Wind Farm.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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Please see **http://www.auswea.com.au** for more information on wind farms.

* Calculations according to Appendix 1 of Policy and Planning Guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria.