



Extension of Waterloo Wind Farm progresses

Embargoed until 18 November 2015

Construction of the \$43 million Waterloo wind farm extension could start early next year, with plans for the six new turbines nearing completion.

Detailed construction plans, which outline technical and operational details of the new wind turbines - and how obligations included in the project's Development Plan Consent will be satisfied - are currently with the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.

Construction work will only commence once an assessment by Council and other relevant authorities has been completed and an electricity generation licence is finalised with the Essential Services Commission.

It is expected that around 130 people will be employed during construction, many from the local area. In addition, the project team estimates \$2.3 million of the overall budget will flow directly to the local community.

Spokesperson for the project, Steve Symons, said substantial time had gone into preparing the plans so that they would meet the expectations of Council and the wider community.

'A key objective in designing how to add six new turbines to the wind farm has been how we minimise the impact on the community,' he said.

Six new Vestas V117 turbines will be added immediately south of the existing 37 turbine wind farm. They will be spaced at intervals similar to those in the existing wind farm, extending the length of the wind farm by three kilometres towards Marrabel.

'During construction, temporary impacts like building noise, increased traffic and road access will be carefully managed to ensure our neighbours experience only minimal disruption,' Mr Symons said.

Mr Symons acknowledged that some individuals remained concerned about noise generated by the wind farm.

"While we have always operated Waterloo in a manner that is compliant with South Australia's strict noise regulations, we are aware some in the community still feel concerned about wind farm noise," he said.

"By selecting the Vestas V117 model we will ensure Stage 2 is built using the latest model turbine, capable of producing more energy than existing turbines whilst operating well within strict noise regulations," he said.

Once operating, the wind farm - with the inclusion of the new turbines - will be independently tested again to confirm noise levels remain well within South Australian noise regulations.

Adding six new turbines at Waterloo will increase the 111MW wind farm's capacity to produce zero carbon electricity for use by homes and businesses.



When the extension is complete, the total capacity of Waterloo will be over 130MW a year, enough clean energy to supply over 50,000 homes and businesses.

Planning consent for the extension was granted by Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council in June 2013. Construction is expected to take around 9 months from mobilisation to full completion.

Consultation with neighbours and the local community will be ongoing throughout the project. The Waterloo Wind Farm Community Liaison Group will also continue.

Wind farms supplied 34% of South Australian customers' energy needs last financial year.

Waterloo Wind Farm Stage 2 – BACKGROUND

The location of the Waterloo Wind Farm is ideal for generating high volumes of energy from the natural wind resource.

Additional turbines at Waterloo were always envisaged as a part of the original development project. Now, after five years of solid performance from the wind farm, its owners have elected to build additional turbines to increase the amount of clean energy the wind farm can produce.

By adding to the existing wind farm – and using infrastructure already in place - we gain more clean energy with less impact on the local community and the environment.

Construction of the Waterloo wind farm extension will be managed on behalf of the wind farm by a specialist team with support from the existing EnergyAustralia asset management team.

Palisade and Northleaf Capital, Waterloo's joint-owners, will fund the \$43 million construction project. During construction, the existing wind farm will continue to be run by the staff onsite who will also be available to respond to queries from the community.