

Mt Emerald Wind Farm Community Newsletter

Issue 1 – March 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the Mt Emerald Wind Farm newsletter. Transfield Services and Port Bajool have formed a joint company, Mt Emerald Wind Farm Pty Ltd, that is currently assessing the potential for a wind farm to be developed on the plateau adjacent to Mt Emerald near Oaky Creek west of Walkamin. The project is in the assessment phase and this newsletter is the first in a series that will keep you informed of progress.

We also invite those interested in the project to attend a community open house. The details are:

Mareeba Heritage Centre

345 Byrnes Street

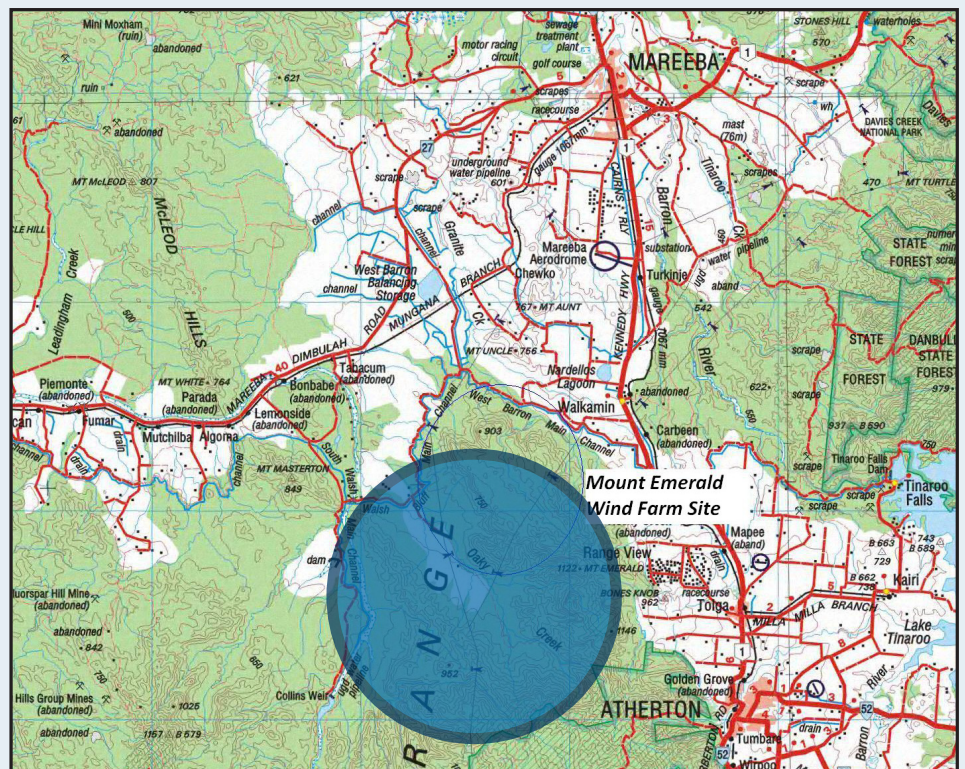
Mareeba

Thursday 31st March 2011, between 4pm and 7pm

Community members are welcome to drop in at any time to discuss the project with Mt Emerald Wind Farm representatives.

The project

The current proposal is to install around 70 to 80 wind turbines on land of some 2400 hectares, whose orientation and elevation make it ideal for this purpose. The site land is a rough plateau (el. 900m) elevated some 300m above the surrounding plains and is comprised of largely sparse natural scrub land with some rocky outcrops. The property is currently not used for any particular farming activity. The surrounding land is predominantly used for grazing and agriculture. The local landmark, Mount Emerald (el. 1122m) is located roughly 2km from the southern boundary of the site.



Highlighted above is the proposed site of the wind farm.



Why a wind farm?

A recent report has clearly identified the need for locally generated power for the region of Far North Queensland. This region does not have access to more traditional power sources such as coal or gas but rather tends to rely on power imports from the south to supplement local generation from hydro and sugar mills (bagasse). Further renewable power such as wind farms, is seen to complement the existing generation of the area.

Recent wind resource mapping has shown that Mt Emerald has an excellent wind resource, comparable to some of the best in the country. The site is also traversed by a major powerline allowing for a simple and cost effective connection into the electricity grid.

Wind farms produce clean energy, have minimal environmental impact and generate jobs and income in regional areas. In addition, this project would contribute to the Australian Government's target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

The proposed project represents a \$550 million investment in the region and has the potential to supply the annual electricity needs of approximately 75,000 Tablelands and Cairns region homes.

What opportunities are there for community input into this proposal?

Transfield Services have a proud history of developing positive long-term relationships with the communities in which we work, as does Port Bajool in the local area.

We see this is a two-way process. Gaining local knowledge and understanding community views will be important considerations as we continue to undertake the various environmental and other studies culminating in a Development Application to Tablelands Regional Council in the early part of this year.

In turn, Mt Emerald Wind Farm is committed to involving the community throughout the development process and we undertake to provide information in a timely and transparent manner. We expect that the local community will have a range of views about this project and we anticipate that these views will allow us to develop the best project possible.

There are a number of ways that you can gain information on the project and contribute to the development process, including:

- a community "open house" to allow a two-way exchange of information between the proponents and the local community;
- regular community newsletters, such as this one, throughout the development phase;
- one-on-one meetings;
- correspondence via telephone, email or letter to the Mt Emerald Wind Farm Project Manager (details below); and
- Mt Emerald Wind Farm wind farm website – www.windfarms.net.au

Mt Emerald Wind Farm has also made a commitment to Tablelands Regional Council and other key stakeholders to keep them informed throughout the project.

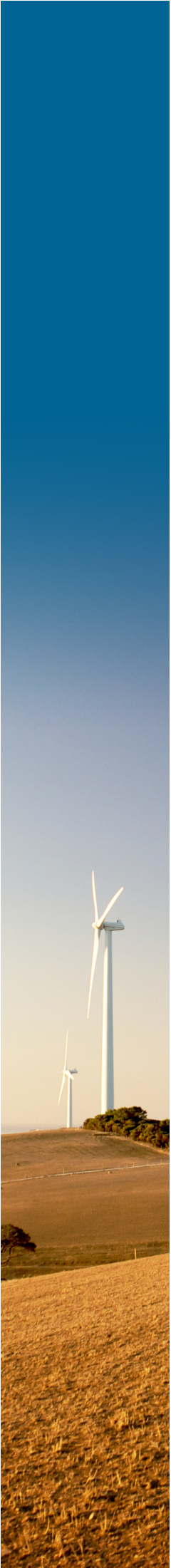
What are we investigating?

Over the next six months, Mt Emerald Wind Farm will investigate the potential impact of the wind farm on your environment and community. This includes:

- flora and fauna assessments, including the potential for impacts on birds and bats;
- noise assessment to understand the potential impacts on neighbouring residences;
- visual impact assessment, including preparation of photomontages;
- aeronautical impact assessment;
- telecommunications interference studies; and
- cultural heritage significance, including consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

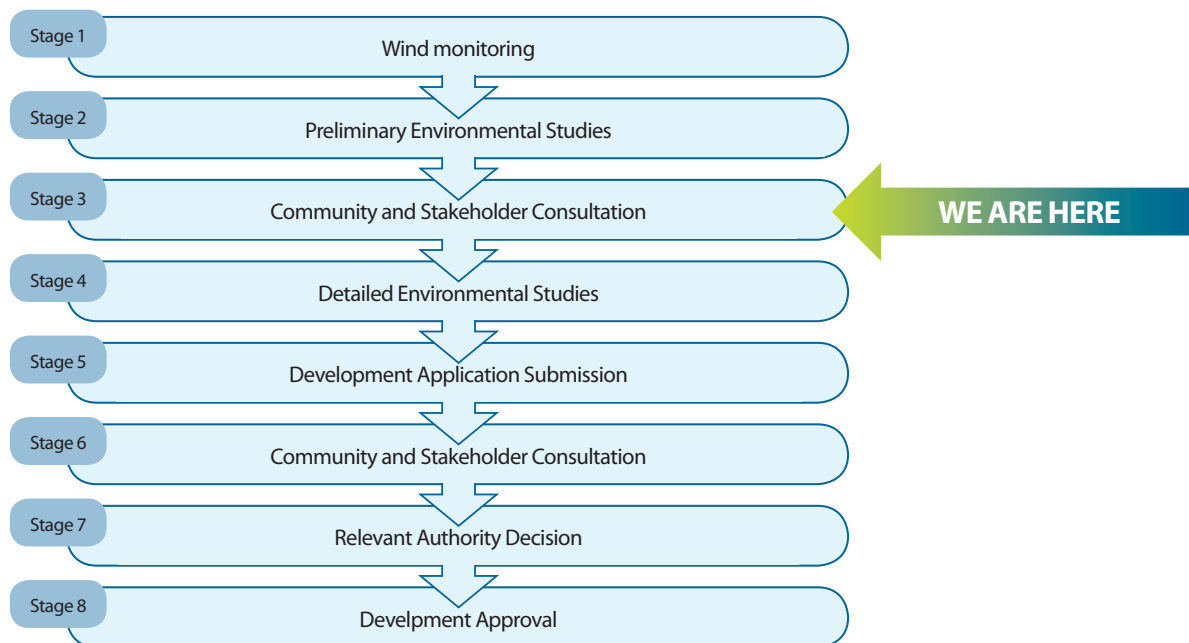
The scope of this work will be guided by the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council National Wind Farm Development Guidelines (Draft - July 2010), and best practice.

These investigations, together with the information and views gathered from community and government, will be considered in the design of the wind farm and the associated access tracks, substation and transmission line.



What is the planning process?

Following the investigations, and consultation with the community and government agencies, Mt Emerald Wind Farm will commence the planning process.



Who is Mt Emerald Wind Farm?

Mt Emerald Wind Farm is a company with equal shares held between Transfield Services and Port Bajool.

Port Bajool, with directors John Morris and Jim Noli, have developed property in the Port Douglas and Tablelands areas for over 30 years. They remain the major landholders at Oaky Creek Farms and are keen to ensure that all neighbours views are considered and that the wind farm makes a positive contribution to the neighbourhood as well as the general Cairns/Tablelands region.

Transfield Services is an Australian-owned company and is a leading provider of operations, maintenance, asset and project management services. The company – with a workforce in excess of 28,000 employees - works across diverse industries including mining, hydrocarbons, transport, water, energy, telecommunications and defence.

Transfield Services owns and operates a portfolio of power stations across Australia with a total generating capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW). The company owns and operates three wind farms, including the Windy Hill project which has been operating successfully in the region for over 10 years, and has an interest in a number of wind farm development sites. These assets and sites were acquired from Queensland Government-owned Stanwell Corporation in December 2007.

Transfield also has extensive experience in project development and delivery across Australia, and has fostered close relationships with landowners and host communities. The company has an enviable track record of working with communities to develop solutions to community issues.

For more information

We invite you to attend our community open house on Thursday 31st March 2011,
or to contact Mt Emerald Wind Farm Project Manager, Terry Johannesen on **(07) 3248 8765**
or johannesent@transfieldservices.com with any questions.

Information about wind energy is available at www.windfarms.net.au

www.windfarms.net.au



Issue 1 – March 2011 – Page 3