

# Mount Emerald Wind Farm



L-R: Terry Johannesen; Sam Musumeci; Dave Reynolds; Bronwyn Dwyer; John Parmenter; Prof Steve Turton (Chair); John Hardy; Jim Carey; Kim Forde and Steve Lavis. Absent: Ross Iraci; Albi Homann

## Ratch forms Community Consultation Committee

Ahead of breaking ground on the Mount Emerald Wind Farm at Walkamin later this year, Ratch Australia Corporation has set up a Community Consultation Committee to promote local feedback and ensure the project's long term success.

Ratch formed the 10-member committee in September after receiving 20 applications. It comprises a Chair and Project Secretariat, and eight community representatives. It should be noted participation in the committee does not reflect an individual's support for the project, but rather their ability to represent the surrounding community.

The Committee held its first meeting on September 29 at the Mareeba RSL Club, with a site visit conducted on October 14.

According to Ratch Business Development Manager, Anthony Yeates, the purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for open discussion between Ratch and the community on issues directly relating to the construction and operation of the wind farm, of its environmental performance and community relations.

"We believe we have assembled a balanced mix of people who have a strong record of civic service and are representative of the wider community and can provide feedback of value to this project", Mr Yeates said.

The community is encouraged to pass their questions or requests for briefings and more information to their community representatives or directly to Ratch-Australia via email: [info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au).

## Vestas wind turbines selected

Subject to completion of the necessary contracting agreements and project financing arrangements, construction of the Mount Emerald wind farm will be undertaken by Vestas, Consolidated Power Projects (CPP) and Catcon.

RATCH had previously announced the construction company Downer would partner Vestas to be the main construction contractor on the site. However, Vestas ultimately elected not to partner with Downer but rather selected an alternate subcontractor.

Vestas is a global leader in wind energy technology and service solutions, while CPP and Catcon provide the electrical and civil engineering components respectively. All companies have substantial experience in wind farm project delivery. Vestas has installed more than 50,000 turbines across 75 countries.

Vestas/Catcon/CPP will share responsibility for the entire project including the supply and construction of 53 wind turbines, access roads, substation, internal cabling, civil and electrical works and wind monitoring equipment. As such, they will be responsible for the majority of employment, subcontract and supply contract opportunities. RATCH will be working with Vestas, CPP and Catcon during November and December to ensure local contractors or suppliers have the chance to be involved.

VESTAS – [www.vestas.com](http://www.vestas.com)

CATCON – [www.catcon.com.au](http://www.catcon.com.au)

CPP – [www.conpower.com.au](http://www.conpower.com.au)



## Ask Anthony

Project Q&As with Ratch Executive General Manager Business Development, Anthony Yeates.

Send your questions to [info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au)

### Is construction still due to start in December?

Yes, the first works are still due to start in December. The first works will be relatively minor works such as upgrades to sections of the access road, and the establishment of on-site construction facilities. Full construction is likely to begin ramping up from March 2017 after the wet season.

### How long will the construction process take? When will it be complete?

The construction process is expected to take two years. The final three to six months of this term should see the erection of the wind turbines completed and blades turning while final checking and testing of all the systems is undertaken.

We will be fully operational by the end of 2018.

### How many wind turbines will be built?

The current layout for the wind farm will use 53 wind turbines. Previous configurations of the wind farm have used up to 75 wind turbines, with planning approval being given for 63. The current layout is specifically tailored for the Vestas turbines chosen to ensure the most efficient design and operational life, and to ensure the project meets its planning obligations in regard to areas such as noise.

### What will be the size of the turbines?

The wind farm will use a combination of two sizes of turbines. There will be 37 turbines which will have a 117m rotor on a 90m tower height; and 16 turbines with a 112m rotor on an 84m tower. The difference in turbine sizes is needed as some of the locations experience stronger wind loads than others.

### How will the turbines get to site?

Each turbine is broken into smaller more manageable parts for delivery to site; towers in 3 or 4 sections, the nacelle (or turbine head), hub and individual blades. The longest piece is the blade at 57m and the heaviest is the nacelle at 125t. Pieces will be transported from the port by truck, using standard axle loads, to site using the Palmerston and Kennedy Highways. From the highway at Walkamin the route will use Hansen/Springmount Roads before entering the site at Kippen Drive.

## UXO Clearance works start

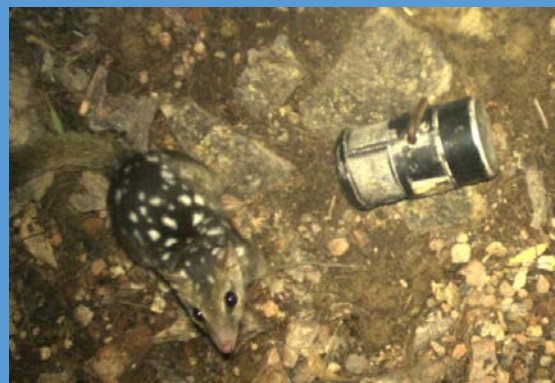
During World War II, some of the areas adjacent to and within the Mount Emerald wind farm site were used for military training purposes; particularly as a mortar bombing range.

Given this history, there is some chance unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be found. In order to ensure the safety of construction, RATCH has liaised with the Department of Defence in order to understand the impact areas and has engaged ordnance experts Milsearch to assist on the site.

Milsearch will conduct an extensive clearance survey of the areas to be used for the wind farm, which lie with the Dept. of Defence identified impact areas.

Milsearch will use specialised detection equipment to locate any potential UXO within the construction zone. If found, UXO can then be safely removed prior to works commencing on site.

## Counting Quolls



As part of its ongoing commitment to integrating with the environment RATCH has undertaken a program to monitor the number of threatened Northern Quoll both on the wind farm site and through the surrounding region.

Teams have recently completed another round of camera trapping of the quoll on-site and at four locations within 50km of site. Data collected enables individual quoll movements to be tracked and populations to be estimated.

NOV16

Preliminary construction works begin. Road upgrades, site office erection.

MAR17

Wind turbines components will commence being delivered to site and erected.

DEC17

Substation is completed and wind farm is connected to the electricity grid network.

AUG18

We flick the switch. Full commercial operations.

DEC16

Sunwater pipeline works at Kippen Drive intersection.

Construction of wind farm to begin with earthworks.

OCT17

All road works complete. All concrete foundations for turbines are complete.

MAY18

All turbines are erected.

SEP18

All financing secured for project.