



TrustPower

**Dundonnell Wind Farm
EES Consultation Plan**

Prepared by Wordwiz, May 2013

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Introduction

Background

The Dundonnell Wind Farm project was established in 2009 by wind farm developer NewEn, and was the first time the company had dealt with a group of land holders motivated to source a wind farm for their properties.

In 2012 NewEn signed an agreement with TrustPower to co-develop the Dundonnell project, with TrustPower purchasing the wind farm from NewEn in 2013.

TrustPower is a publicly listed energy retailer and developer in New Zealand and is involved in wind farm development in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. TrustPower own and operate the Snowtown 100MW wind farm in South Australia. It is currently constructing Stage 2 of this wind farm with an additional 270MW.

In 2012 NewEn submitted its EPBC and EES referrals to the federal and state planning departments (DSEWPaC and DPCD) respectively. Towards the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 NewEn received a ruling from DSEWPaC and DPCD on the referrals for the wind farm.

The project is a controlled action under the EPBC Act (The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) and an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the EE Act (Environment Effects Act 1978), is also required.

The process will be managed by DPCD as an accredited process under the bilateral agreement they have with DSEWPaC.

TrustPower is working with all involved and looks forward to continuing to work towards a planning permit application in the first half of 2014.

EES Consultation Plan Aims and Objectives

This EES Consultation Plan is designed to document the measures TrustPower will take to engage with and inform the public and stakeholders during the preparation of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Dundonnell Wind Farm project.

The main aims of this consultation plan are to:

- Proactively inform and interact with the public and project stakeholders about the Dundonnell Wind Farm and its associated EES studies;
- Identify stakeholders and possible stakeholder issues;
- Create a framework to seek and encourage input from stakeholders throughout the EES process;
- Detail the consultation that will occur throughout the EES process;
- Seek and embrace community information relevant to the EES process; and
- Install response mechanisms for effective and accurate feedback.

TrustPower's engagement principles include:

- Acknowledging and interacting with stakeholders;
- Informing them;
- Seeking and analysing feedback;
- Following up feedback; and
- Reviewing and altering when appropriate.



Engagement and consultation policy

TrustPower strives to provide open and honest stakeholder engagement at all times.

We are committed to facilitating excellent community and stakeholder engagement; we are flexible in our approach and adopt appropriate communications and engagement processes at all times.

TrustPower does and will continue to communicate openly and honestly with stakeholders, particularly those who are most impacted by this wind farm project.

Contact with these stakeholders has begun early in the process and will continue through to the commissioning of the working wind farm and beyond.

The TrustPower team believes in building and maintaining positive relationships through targeted communication and ongoing consultation, responding in a timely manner to all concerns and working with individuals, government, community groups and key stakeholders to reach mutually acceptable, positive outcomes. We aim to promote to the wider community the benefits of wind farms through a variety of mediums.

We endeavour to:

- Be open and honest with all stakeholders at all times;
- Communicate with the local community 'on their terms' – in a way that is comfortable to them;
- Contribute to the community through sponsorship and contributions to appropriate community organisations; and
- Become a part of the communities where our projects are based.



About the project

TrustPower

TrustPower started business in 1925 and has grown to be New Zealand's fifth-largest electricity retailer and fifth-largest electricity generator.

TrustPower owns 36 small to medium size hydro generating stations and two wind farms in New Zealand. TrustPower is also involved in Australia's wind farm industry, with developments in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. TrustPower owns and operates the Snowtown 100MW wind farm in South Australia.

With assets of more than \$2 billion, TrustPower is a reputable company which is majority New Zealand owned and is listed on the New Zealand stock exchange.

TrustPower aims to be a leader of the energy industry, through innovation and excellent customer service.

Dundonnell Wind Farm

Dundonnell is a small rural area located in the centre of a triangle pointed by Mortlake, Derrinallum and Lake Bolac. Nearby populated areas include Woorndoo (about 17 kilometres to the west) and Darlington, about 13 kilometres to the south.

The Dundonnell Wind Farm is an exciting project for TrustPower, as the project has resulted from a group of land holders motivated to source a wind farm for their properties. The farm will include about 104 modern turbines and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure, which will provide high levels of efficiency. Further certainty on these dimensions will be provided throughout the process.

The proposal will include an electricity grid connection between the proposed Dundonnell Wind Farm and the 500kV transmission line at or in the general vicinity of the Mortlake Power Station, about 33km to the south-west of the site.

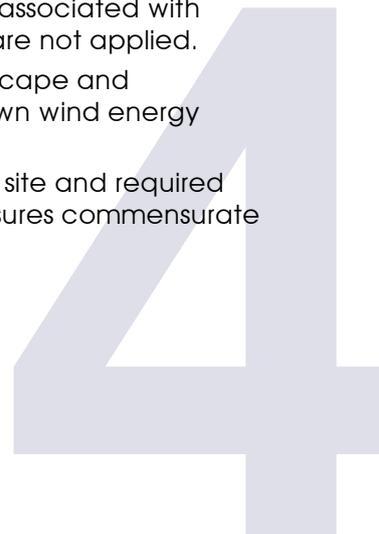
TrustPower and initial project developer NewEn have been overwhelmed by the support for the Dundonnell project.

It is anticipated the Dundonnell Wind Farm area will cover about 40 square kilometres and incorporate up to 11 host land holders. The wind farm itself is likely to have a footprint that will impact on about two per cent of that area. We have also had several neighbours indicate their willingness to participate in the project.

The Environment Effects Statement

The Minister has stated that an EES is required for the Dundonnell Wind Farm, listing the following reasons:

- The project could have significant effects on biodiversity values, in particular threatened fauna such as the broлга and protected migratory bird species. Further, the potential for significant impacts on the little known yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat is highly uncertain.
- The project could have significant effects on the scientific and landscape values associated with volcanic features on the site if appropriate avoidance and mitigation responses are not applied.
- The project has the potential for cumulative adverse effects on biodiversity, landscape and geoscientific values in the context of nearby existing, approved and publicly known wind energy projects.
- An EES would enable an integrated assessment of development scenarios for the site and required off-site infrastructure and works, in the context of avoidance and mitigation measures commensurate with environmental values and risk.



Consultation and stakeholders

Stakeholders

There are many stakeholders involved in the development of a wind farm. Here TrustPower lists the key stakeholders.

Stakeholder group	Specific parties
Residents within 3km of the project	Participating landholders Adjoining landholders Neighbouring residents (to within 3km of project boundary)
Local businesses	Primary producers Hotels Accommodation Food outlets
Project partners	Local small suppliers Construction company
Moyne Shire Council	Councillors CEO Planning Department Major Projects Officer
State government departments	Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure VicRoads Aboriginal Affairs Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment Sustainability Victoria Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development Department of Primary Industry VicRoads Parks Victoria
Federal government departments	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPAC)
Local media	Western District Newspaper Group (particularly Mortlake Dispatch) The Standard regional daily newspaper Commercial Radio (AM & FM) Community Radio ABC Radio TV
Investors	Potential investors in wind farm
Technical Reference Group (TRG)	Representatives from government agencies, local government and regional authorities
Nearby towns	Residents Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woorndoo • Darlington • Mortlake • Derrinnallum • Lake Bolac • Chatsworth • Streatham 	



Stakeholder group	Specific parties
Energy	Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator Relevant network provider
Surrounding municipalities	Possibly Ararat Shire Council and Southern Grampians Shire Council, depending on the location of transport routes
Local Indigenous Community Kuuyang Maar (RAP applicant), in conjunction with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	May be several relevant groups in any one area; Kuuyang Maar Aboriginal Corporation is responsible for the descendants of the Girai wurrung tribe, the initial inhabitants of the land
Heritage organisations	National Trust Heritage Victoria
Other stakeholders	Could be adjoining landholders Landscape Guardians Local community groups
Interested members of the public	
Dundonnell CFA Woorndoo FNC Lake Bolac School Lake Bolac Golf Club Woorndoo Landcare Group Lake Bolac Landcare Group	CFA Schools Kindergarten Probus Rotary Lions Apex Tourist Information Centre
Supporters of renewable energy	Friends of the Earth Codrington Wind Farm Tours
Anti-wind groups	Landscape Guardian Association Waubra Foundation
National media	The Age The Herald Sun The Australian Channel 7 (Prime) - Today Tonight Channel 9 (WIN) - ACA Channel TEN - TEN News ABC Stateline Four Corners SBS Dateline Radio - ABC 774
Airspace authorities	Air Services Civil Aviation Safety Authority Department of Defence (Land Planning and Spatial Information) Local aerial agricultural applicators (Derrinallum Air Apply, Ag Airwork Pty Ltd Warrnambool) RAAF
Other regional wind projects	Can incorporate various stages; commissioned, in development and planned

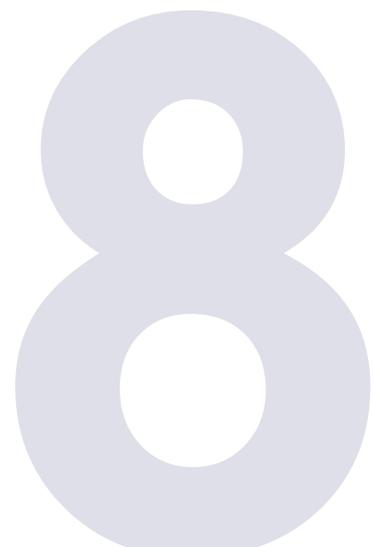


Engagement to date

TrustPower is committed to maintaining positive engagement practices at all times. Initial project developer NewEn was also committed to community engagement and has undertaken a variety of initiatives already in this area. A brief overview follows.

Date	Engagement	Description
2011 – current and ongoing	Moyne Shire Councillors	NewEn has undertaken a variety of engagements with Moyne Shire Councillors, including presenting at Council workshops and attending (and presenting to) Council meetings.
May 2009 – current and ongoing	Moyne Shire staff	Meetings and phone calls with Strategic Planning Manager Russell Guest and Major Projects Liaison Officer Vicki Askew-Thornton have occurred many times and will continue to do so throughout the process.
2009 to current and ongoing	Relevant authorities	NewEn has engaged on multiple occasions with numerous authorities involved in the development of a wind farm, including – but not limited to – DSE, DPCD and DSEWPac.
2010 - 2011	Neighbour doorknock	TrustPower and NewEn believe in a personal approach and door knocking of immediate neighbours of the wind farm was undertaken by NewEn. Please note this engagement incorporated the broader initial area of investigation.
2009 – current and ongoing	Landholder meetings	NewEn undertook one-on-one landholder meetings that were interactive, informative and designed to nut out the process with those directly involved in the project.
2010 – current and ongoing	Brolga landholder survey work	Understanding the community’s concern for the Brolga and minimising the project’s impact on any Brolga nesting is paramount for TrustPower. NewEn committed to local brolga surveying by those who know the animals best and TrustPower and NewEn have incorporated the findings in reports and procedures.
September 2011	Dedicated 1800 number	A free call 1800 number was established in late 2011 by NewEn and is now operated by TrustPower. TrustPower is committed to returning all calls to this widely promoted number within 24 hours.
September 2011	Dundonnell specific newsletter	An informative newsletter providing details on the project, NewEn company, wind energy details and more was distributed to land holders within a 12km radius of the project in September 2011. Further newsletters are planned by TrustPower.
October 12, 2011	Public meeting	The Dundonnell Wind Farm Public Meeting was held at the Dundonnell Hall on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 7pm. The mood was generally positive, with many of the crowd staying for drinks afterwards. Main issues of the evening focused on roads, the brolga and the fact that NewEn will be on selling the project to another company. Meetings notes were taken to record all discussions.

Date	Engagement	Description
February 2012	Website redevelopment, dedicated Leave your feedback button	<p>The NewEn website was updated to ensure project specific information was live on the site. TrustPower has updated this information to its website and will consistently update the site to keep all stakeholders informed at all times of the status of the project, including through the EES process.</p> <p>TrustPower will add pages and content to the individual project sections of the website to make it more user friendly for this process.</p> <p>It incorporates a media section, feedback mechanisms and a newsletter signup form and is designed to be a one-stop shop for anyone requiring information on the project.</p>



Issues Management

A database of information will be created for reference throughout the project, and will amalgamate all data collected at communication points, such as face-to-face meetings, personal and group feedback, calls to the 1800 number, email and online communications and market research results. Reports will be generated from this database for regular review at management meetings throughout the life of the project. Issues raised through the EES process will be recorded in EES specific documentation.

Preliminary findings from consultation to date

Consultation as detailed elsewhere in this document has revealed some concerns. These are:

- Potential impact on the broilga;
- Length of construction and disruption during this time;
- Traffic routes and damage to roads;
- Cumulative impact of major projects in the region;
- Transfer of project to another developing company;
- Risk of ownership company becoming insolvent;
- Impact on land values.

Communications

TrustPower has a communications officer directly employed to facilitate positive communication with stakeholders. This role involves developing and administering initiatives as listed in this document.

As a direct contact point for stakeholders, Project Manager Chris Righetti is the main contact and is committed to promptly responding to queries.

Chris Righetti
T: 1800 122 823, 03 9654 3066

Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Communication

This proposed engagement incorporates various methods designed to create a range of communication options. Please note, these are not in any particular order – all will be undertaken at appropriate stages throughout the process.

Timing	Method	Description	Stakeholder	Deliverable
Planning Ongoing	Website redevelopment	The TrustPower website has recently been updated to ensure there is as much project specific information as possible live on the site. This will allow TrustPower to consistently keep all stakeholders informed at all times of the process of each project. The company will add pages and content to the individual project sections of the site to make it more user friendly for this process. It incorporates a media section, feedback mechanisms and a newsletter signup form and is designed to be a one-stop shop for anyone requiring information on the project. A dedicated EES monthly update will be incorporated on the site.	ALL	Complete redesign and content layout for the new site. All project documentation to be added to the site where appropriate. Regular updates to website as project progresses.
Ongoing	Website feedback	A dedicated Leave your feedback here button has been established on the individual wind farm project pages on the TrustPower website allowing the community to have a dedicated email address for all project correspondence. This provides a direct line of communication to TrustPower and an effective mechanism for reporting concerns.	ALL	Response to email communications on the same or next business day. Monthly internal reporting of communications.
Ongoing	Dedicated 1800 number	A free call 1800 number has been established and is promoted on the TrustPower website and all printed marketing materials. This will provide a direct line of communication to TrustPower.	ALL	Response to calls on the same or next business day. Monthly internal reporting of communications.
EES, planning Ongoing	Personalised letter	Personalised letters will be sent to all people who attend public meetings and leave their contact details on the attendance sheet. TrustPower intends to maintain this personal contact with those within a three kilometre radius of the project, at intervals throughout the process.	Landowners, 3km radius, local businesses, interested public	Personalised letters will be distributed, where appropriate, throughout the process. Newsletters.

Timing	Method	Description	Stakeholder	Deliverable
	Council communication	TrustPower is committed to regular Council updates throughout this process and understands the need for a two-pronged approach, to communicate with Councillors and Council staff. Newsletters will be emailed directly to each Councillor and appropriate Council staff; TrustPower staff will also be available to speak to Councillors in a workshop environment as frequently as required.	Councillors Council staff	Present at Moyne Council workshops. Regular meetings and email updates with Council officers.
Ongoing	Database development	Development of stakeholder databases is currently underway and will allow TrustPower to accurately and effectively distribute information.	TrustPower	Communications matrix database. Contact database. Monthly internal communications reports.
Ongoing	Newsletter	TrustPower establishes and distributes project-specific newsletters for each wind farm project it develops. These are archived and available for download from the website. A project newsletter will be assembled on a regular basis throughout the development, construction and commissioning process of the wind farm. It will be distributed to land holders within a 12km radius and copies will also be left at the post offices and general stores in surrounding towns. This newsletter will be emailed to other stakeholders including Council and Government officials. Interested groups outside these identified stakeholders will be able to access archived newsletters and subscribe to email versions through the TrustPower website.	Landholders within 3km radius Government authorities Regulatory bodies	Regular PDF newsletter for upload to the website and either electronic or posted distribution. Online newsletter archive. Newsletter subscriber database.
EES process	Community Engagement Committee	A Community Engagement Committee, complete with members of the community and a wind farm representative, will be established for this project to give the area's residents "ownership" of this process and ensure they feel there is ample opportunity to contribute to the development. An article on the community engagement committee should run in the newsletter, calling for interested parties to nominate to be on the committee.	Community Council	Newsletter notices. Direct approach to local stakeholders. Meeting venues, agenda and minutes fed into newsletter and website pages.

Timing	Method	Description	Stakeholder	Deliverable
Ongoing	Media releases	Media releases will be regularly distributed throughout project processes, however, TrustPower does not see this as its primary form of communication. The company sees its newsletters and personal approach as its primary source of communication; TrustPower would like its stakeholders to be aware of any relevant information from them, not from the media.	Media All	Media releases. Letters to the editor.
This is a contingency plan throughout the EES process and will only be used if additional interaction is deemed appropriate	Media tours	At appropriate stages throughout development TrustPower may invite media onsite, to undertake a tour and gain first-hand knowledge of the project. TrustPower does acknowledge that while the media's stake in the project is low, their potential impact is high and some stakeholders will gain direct information from the media.	Media	Transport, media backgrounders, management and stakeholder access for interviews and photo opportunities.
This will be prepared this year and presented in the latter stage of the EES phase	Visual simulation of proposed wind farm	At the appropriate stage of development this visual simulation could be displayed on the website and will be available in PDF format for stakeholders to download. It will also be able to be distributed via email and through our newsletters.		Window display in small towns, local post office or general store. PDF on website.
Ongoing	Personal visits	Personal visits are a regular part of TrustPower's engagement process and will be largely focused on key stakeholders.	Land holders Objectors Adjoining landowners Council staff Councillors Government agencies	Meeting reports. Thank you letters.
Ongoing	Community information sessions and open days	As required, TrustPower may hold community information sessions and open days to provide community education on the wind farm. It is anticipated there will be at least one public information session during the EES process.	All	NewEn has already held a community meeting at the Dundonnell Hall, and will host another meeting at the appropriate stage of development. Photos and reports to website.
Construction Commissioning, contingency plan only during EES stage	Advertisements	If necessary TrustPower will advertise in local media to inform stakeholders of appropriate wind farm information. However, as stated earlier, TrustPower will primarily communicate through other methods.	All	Advertising copy.
Ongoing	Market Research	TrustPower will conduct market research throughout the project area to monitor the community's perception throughout the project and identify areas the company does well and could improve in for the future.	Community	Questions. Research target groups. Research reports fed into comms matrix and newsletters.

Statutory consultation requirements

As part of the EES process there are several statutory requirements to ensure the public has adequate opportunity to view and respond to the EES.

- The Minister for Planning will create scoping requirements, which will detail what needs to be incorporated in the EES. The draft scoping requirements will be exhibited for 15 business days for public comment, during which time the public can comment on the details included. The scoping requirements will then be finalised and issued to the proponent. This process will be advertised on the DPCD website, one daily newspaper and the appropriate local newspaper(s). Printed copies of the document will be made available.
- Once complete the EES will be exhibited for 30 business days for public comment. Written responses to the document will be compiled and provided to the EES inquiry. This process will be advertised on the DPCD website, one daily newspaper and the appropriate local newspaper(s). Printed copies of the document will be made available.
- Following this step, an inquiry into the EES will be appointed by the Minister of Planning under the Environment Effects Act 1978. This will incorporate consideration of public submissions made during the public comment phase.

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