**Golden Plains Wind Farm**

**Public Comment Invited**

**Environment Effects Statement**

**Written submissions on the exhibited** Environment Effects Statement (EES) **are now invited. Submissions close 5pm Monday 18 June 2018.**

WestWind Energy Pty Ltd (WestWind) is proposing to develop the Golden Plains Wind Farm on 16,739 hectares of land to the west, south and south east of Rokewood, approximately 60 kilometres north west of Geelong, Victoria.

WestWind has prepared an EES for the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

**The EES is on public exhibition for 30 business days from 4 May to 18 June 2018.** During this time, members of the public are welcome to make written submissions about the EES.

**The Project**

The Golden Plains Wind Farm includes the construction of 228 turbines, foundations, overhead powerlines and underground cabling, four electricity collector stations, an electricity terminal station, battery energy storage, temporary quarry and other associated works. Construction of the approximately 1000MW wind farm is anticipated to take four years.

**The EES**

The Victorian Minister for Planning advised WestWind on 9 July 2017, that an EES is required for the Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES process will inform decision-making on the Project under Victorian law. Further information regarding the EES process can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at [**https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/golden-plains-wind-farm**](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/golden-plains-wind-farm)Pursuant to Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the Project (EPBC 2017/7965) is a controlled action and requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

The relevant controlling provisions for matters of national environmental significance (MNES) are:

* Listed threatened species and ecological communities (sections 18 & 18A)

The Project’s impacts on MNES are being assessed by the State through an accredited process under Schedule 1 (part 5) of the Bilateral Agreement with the Commonwealth. The EES being exhibited therefore addresses these potential impacts.

**How to access the EES**

The EES will be on exhibition during normal opening hours at the following locations:

* State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
* Golden Plains Shire Office, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn VIC 3331
* Golden Plains Library, 27 High Street, Bannockburn VIC 3331
* Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Melbourne Office, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002
* DELWP Geelong Office, 30 Little Malop Street Geelong VIC 3220

The documentation will also be available online at [http://w-wind.com.au/golden-plains-wind-farm/eesplanning-process/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__w-2Dwind.com.au_golden-2Dplains-2Dwind-2Dfarm_eesplanning-2Dprocess_&d=DwMFAg&c=OgZOSER8c1RLeytEexU279Q2qk0jVwkrOdYe5iSi-kk&r=D9yMie83My10Wk9g2VTOtQtNbakLuO6pWxwva0TZ73A&m=xTRY7wEp0IxPugc2Z_2K4wUvV2dOXfdd0GD4_9XFl5o&s=WULo-oyM14GBxy00csMV14FKNwXl9zpKEYkZWF79mRU&e=)

Copies of the EES Summary Document, the EES Main Report, Technical Appendices and Map Book are available to view for free at all display locations or can be obtained directly from WestWind.

To purchase copies of the EES and supporting documents contact WestWind at **reception@w-wind.com.au** or by calling **(03) 5421 9999**

* EES Summary Document – Free of charge
* USB containing all EES documents - $50
* Hard copy of the EES Main Report – $50
* Hard copy of each volume of Technical Appendices – $75 ea
* Hard copy of the Map Book – $25

**How to make a submission**

**Submissions on the GPWF EES must be made in writing and received by 5pm on 18 June 2018.**

**Online submissions are preferred. This can be done via the Victorian Government’s engagement portal:** [**www.engage.vic.gov.au/golden-plains-wind-farm-ees-inquiry**](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/golden-plains-wind-farm-ees-inquiry)

Hard copy submissions must be accompanied by a coversheet available only by calling Planning Panels Victoria. Each written submission must have a separate cover sheet and they cannot be copied.

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Where a submission is made by two or more persons, it must state the name and address of the person who will represent these persons in any formal public hearing and be their contact person.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

Submissions will be treated as public documents.

**Inquiry hearing process**

* An Inquiry has been appointed by the Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.to consider submissions about the planning permit application for the project. The Inquiry will review the EES and public submissions, and investigate and consider the environmental effects of the Project in accordance with Terms of Reference approved by the Minister for Planning.

**A Directions Hearing will be held during the week commencing 2 July 2018 at:**

* **Bannockburn Shire (Golden Plains Shire) Hall, 12 High Street, Bannockburn.**

At the Directions hearing, the Inquiry will consider preliminary or procedural issues and give directions about the hearing, make arrangements for the hearing including the timetable and hearing venue, and answer any questions people may have about the hearing.

Information on the Inquiry process and timetable for the hearings will be published as it becomes available at www.engage.vic.gov.au/golden-plains-wind-farm-ees-inquiry

**Public Hearings**

Public hearings are expected to commence the week commencing 30 July 2018 at Bannockburn Shire (Golden Plains Shire) Hall, 12 High Street, Bannockburn.

**Drop-in sessions**

Drop-in sessions for questions relating to the Project will be held at the following times and locations:

* Rokewood Memorial Hall
	+ 22nd May 2-8PM

**Questions**

Questions relating to the Golden Plains Wind Farm Project should be directed to WestWind at **reception@w-wind.com.au** or by calling **(03) 5421 9999**

Questions relating to the EES process should be directed to the Impact Assessment Unit at DELWP at **environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au** or by calling **(03) 8392 5503.**

Questions relating to the Inquiry process including making a submission, should be directed to Planning Panels Victoria by emailing **planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au** or calling **(03) 8392 5121.**