

# Ararat Wind Farm

## Newsletter Issue One, December 2007

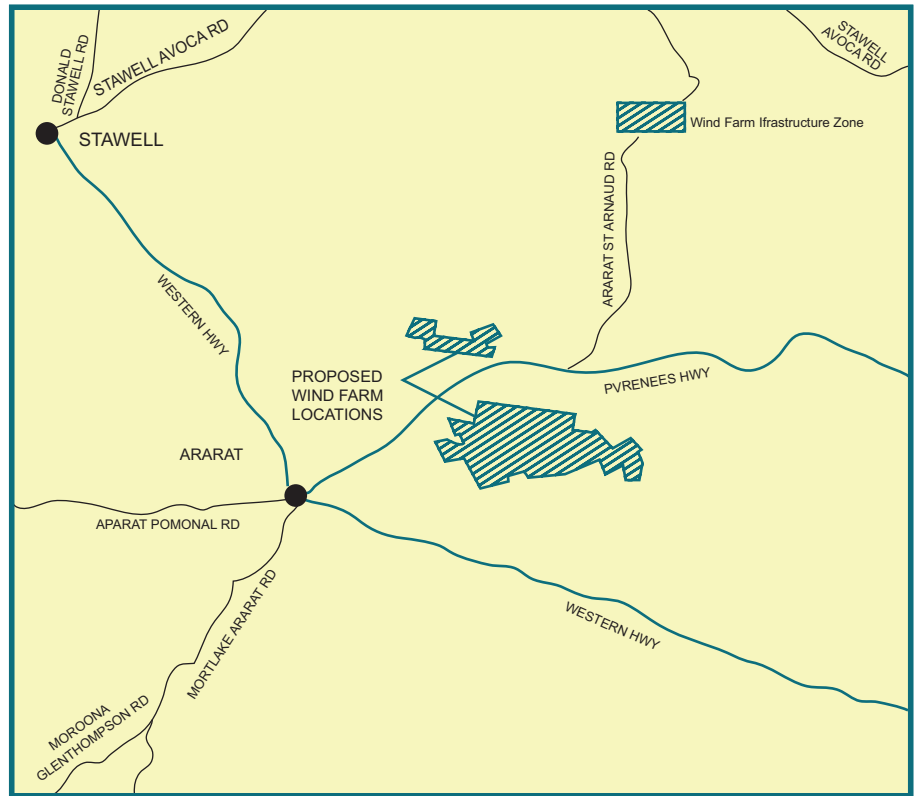


Welcome to this Ararat Wind Farm newsletter.

RES Australia (RES) is proposing to build a wind farm on rural land approximately seven kilometres east of Ararat.

This newsletter is designed to inform the community about our plans. It outlines the opportunities for you to find out more about the proposal and let us know about issues to be considered as we develop it.

We encourage you to take the time to read this and learn more about the project. If you want more detail, you will find up to date information on our website [www.res-australia.com.au](http://www.res-australia.com.au). We plan to host a number of Open Days in the vicinity of the project during 2008 to provide project information to the local community. You will also find contact information on the back of this newsletter.



## Background

RES carried out a survey of Victoria to identify potential areas for a wind farm project using climatic and infrastructure data. Ararat is one of a limited number of locations which appears to have appropriate attributes for a project.

RES is currently undertaking studies to establish firm details about the wind farm project. When the results are ready, we will form our proposal and consult on it next year.

Following your feedback and further refinement, RES will prepare permit applications which we hope to lodge in the middle of next year.

## RES Australia

RES is an independent wind farm operator in the local market. We are a subsidiary of the Renewable Energy Systems group of companies based in the U.K. The RES Group is a specialist wind farm developer with 26 years experience. So far we have built 54 wind farm projects around the world. See [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com) for further information. RES believes Ararat

will be a world class wind farm site. In Australia we have been operating from our base in Sydney for four years. We have a number of projects under consideration, one of which is in NSW and has been approved for construction. We also have an office in Wellington from where we are managing the development of our New Zealand projects.

## Project fundamentals

RES is assessing the site on the ridges on either side of the Pyrenees Highway as shown in the location map. The site is on private land which is currently grazed. Only about 1 to 2 % of the overall site area needs to be used for the wind farm infrastructure. When the wind farm is built, normal farming activities will continue mostly unaffected.





RES' preliminary assessment indicates the study area may have the potential for up to 50 large scale (up to 3MW) turbine sites. Because turbines need to be located prominently to capture the wind's energy, investigations for the wind farm will concentrate on the ridge areas. The wind farm also needs a substation, grid connection lines and access tracks. The designs and locations of these are being investigated and will be settled by RES next year.

### Why was Ararat chosen?

RES' studies so far indicate that the site has a favourable wind resource; is near to a suitable transmission network, and has reasonable separation from residential areas. We have been monitoring the wind resource on the ridges from a 50m high monitoring mast for more than a year. We believe that by being sensitive to the community and the environment during design and consenting, the wind farm should have only minor adverse effects.

### Environmental issue

While wind power is one of the most sustainable ways of generating

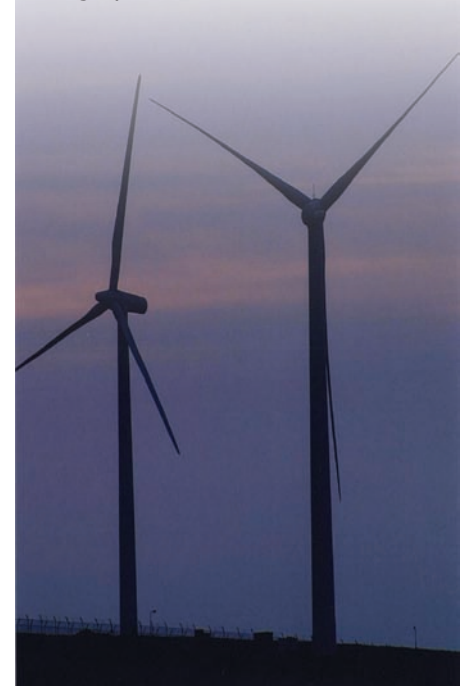
electricity, RES is using local experts for environmental advice and input into the development process. We are also working with the Ararat and Northern Grampians Councils and the relevant state and federal government departments to make sure that our environmental assessments are consistent with good planning practice.

Those assessments include looking at the effect of the wind farm on:

- Visual impact and landscape;
- Birds and other wildlife;
- Vegetation, including indigenous vegetation;
- Archaeology and cultural effects;
- Water quality and aquatic ecology;
- Potential noise impacts on residences;
- Socio-economic benefits and impacts;
- Transport, traffic management, access; and
- Effects on service providers and telecommunication links.

### Other benefits

As well as generating pollution-free electricity and helping to meet the government's strategy for a sustainable, low emissions energy future, during construction we will need a significant workforce. We have a policy of using local contractors and suppliers wherever possible. There will also be opportunities for new local businesses involved in providing materials and services during operations.



### TIMETABLE

December 2007 to June 2008 – Environmental assessments.

February / March 2008 - First Community Open Day.

May / June 2008 – Wind farm details firmed up and further consultation.

Mid 2008 – Permit application and assessment of environmental effects lodged.

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Consultation with local authorities, interest groups and residents is commencing and will continue right through next year. We would like to hear your views on our proposals.

We will announce details of our first Open Day closer to the time and we will welcome you to come along and tell us what you think at that time.

Alternatively you can contact **Sedat Erol** with your comments at:

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PO Box 1274  
Crows Nest  
NSW 1585

Ph 02 9431 7600

Email: [info-australia@res-ltd.com](mailto:info-australia@res-ltd.com)