

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS



Hallett Wind Farm—South Australia

How noisy are wind turbines?

Although wind turbines do make noise, they are generally much quieter than most people expect. It is quite possible to carry out a normal conversation at the base of a turbine running at maximum power, without raising your voice. The main sound is the swooshing of the blades as they rotate. Sometimes when standing close to the tower, the whirr of the gearbox and generator may also be faintly audible.

Unlike most other sources of industrial noise, a turbine's audibility increases with wind speed. However the wind's background noise typically rises more quickly and hence tends to balance the noise from the wind turbines.

Wind farms have strict noise guidelines with which they must comply. Whilst a wind farm will be compliant with noise guidelines it may be possible for residents living close to a wind farm to hear the turbines from time to time. However, the noise level heard should not be higher than the permitted noise level.

What about visual impact?

To ensure minimal visual impact on the surrounding area, wind farms are sensitively designed and appropriately sited. Part of this design process incorporates consultation with the local community so we become aware of highly valued areas. Photomontages are created, showing what the wind farm will look like from different locations. This allows the community to assess the visual impact of the wind farm before construction takes place.

How will land value be affected?

Studies carried out in both Australia and overseas have found that there was no conclusive evidence of the existence of any widespread property value impacts that might be present in communities surrounding wind energy facilities.

Typically, many of the concerns that local residents may have during the development of a wind farm project are not held after the wind farm has been built and the actual impact is known.

Will the community benefit?

Wind farm developments bring economic opportunities to regional areas through the engagement of regional goods, services and labour throughout construction.

Additionally, a community enhancement fund is created which provides an economic boost to the local community. This can range from providing for a new fire truck, refurbishing the local school, or any other community related project that is agreed upon by the community.

Can the community have it's say?

As a developer, we work closely with communities to impart an understanding of the need for wind farms, as well as to discuss the potential effects that the wind farm may have on the local environment. Through setting up public communication plans, all issues relating to such a new development can be addressed in a structured manner over the duration of the project. Community input is always encouraged and sought to enhance a wind farm development

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Wind Prospect Landowner Information

About Wind Prospect

Wind Prospect is a leading independent wind energy developer, constructor and operator, working in Australia, UK, Ireland, France, Canada, USA, China (mainland and Hong Kong) and New Zealand. The Wind Prospect Group has over 18 years of successful development within the industry and has been involved in over 2,500 MW of approved wind farms, in terms of development, construction, operations and commercial services.

The Australian operation of Wind Prospect has achieved planning approvals for 10 wind farms in South Australia, totaling over 850 MW, which is more megawatts approved by local councils than any other developer in Australia. The period from March 2005 until end 2009 saw the building and commissioning of five of these wind farm projects, including the 46MW Canunda Wind Farm, the 70MW Mt Millar wind farm, the 95 MW Hallett Wind Farm, the 99 MW Snowtown Wind Farm (Stage 1) and the 71 MW Hallett Hill Wind Farm. The 132MW North Brown Hill project is currently under construction. Development activity has now also commenced in Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

We remain independent of all turbine manufacturers to ensure that we can achieve our aim of maximising the cost-effectiveness of every project we undertake. This means that the wind turbines chosen will be the most suitable for your land, to ensure the most economically viable development for all parties.

Please take a look through our website - www.windprospect.com - for further information on the company, the team and our projects.



WIND FARMING AND TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE

Having a wind farm on rural land can be an ideal form of diversification, providing an alternative revenue stream from the land whilst being able to maintain normal agricultural practices.



Wind Monitoring Mast

How much land is required?

The turbines themselves take up very little land (the tower at the base has a diameter of 4-5 metres) and can be positioned to minimise interference with ploughing, grazing and other activities. As a rule of thumb, 3 machines with a blade length of 45 metres can be accommodated along a 1km straight line. However in practice terrain is not quite so linear and the topography and predominant wind directions play a major role in determining preferred turbine locations.

Access tracks to each turbine, usually made of gravel, need to be between 6 and 12 metres in width during construction. Interconnecting electrical cabling between



Electrical cable laying during construction

the turbines is almost always buried below ground, usually alongside the access tracks, within the wind farm. A wind farm substation will usually be required. For a small wind

farm this may be contained within a small building. For larger developments a plot of land measuring about a hectare, will be required to house the electrical plant. The electrical connection to the existing grid is normally by a three phase power line mounted on poles.

Noise regulations affect the positioning of wind turbines relative to residences and as such the minimum spacing between turbines and existing residences varies depending on the predicted noise level. As a general guide typical set-back distances from associated dwellings are in the order of 750 to 1,000m whilst a distance of 1,000 to 1,500m is maintained from dwellings not associated with the development.

What agreements need to be made?

Payments are made to landowners at every stage of development, relative to the nature of the stage of development and agreement entered into.



Turbine foundation

The initial Licence agreement covers a period up to 5 years for which fixed annual payments are made to each interested landowner. A Licence permits key exploratory activities to be undertaken by the developer (such as wind monitoring and ecological surveys) and detailed planning assessments to commence to determine the feasibility of any future development.

If results are positive, and landowners are committed to moving forward, Agreements to Lease (ATL) contracts are put forward. An ATL (and accompanying Lease document) sets out the responsibilities and obligations of both parties over the life of a wind farm project and may be tabled before the expiry date of a Licence. It is important to note that, owing to the long life of a wind farm, the landowners obligations (as stipulated in an ATL) will need to be transferable to any future purchaser of the land/property involved.

WIND FARMING AND TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE



Rotor installation

By the ATL stage, preliminary wind farm layouts will have been created that provide an indication of where and how many turbines are being proposed. This can be important as, payment terms may be offered on a per turbine basis to each landowner.

How is a wind farm consented?

As part of the development process, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is prepared following relevant guidelines. The EIA looks at the effects on the local environment, such as ecology, cultural heritage, hydrology, noise, as well as assessing the visual impact on the surrounding landscape. This forms the basis of the planning application to the relevant planning authority for assessment and, ultimately, approval.



Rotor installation

What happens during construction?

The length of time construction takes depends on the size of the wind farm. During this time there can be relatively high impacts, including frequent traffic movements, compared to the later operation of the wind farm when there are very few vehicle movements. For this reason,

additional one-off payments are made to each landowner on a per turbine basis to compensate for the disturbance. All-weather access tracks are built to link the wind turbines and these can dramatically improve access across the property for the landowner. New fencing and gates may be required where access tracks cross pre-existing fence lines. Trenches and excavations are generally left open for only a few days (or as required by regulation) and appropriate safety fencing is used during this period to prevent accidents, if needed.

How is farming impacted following construction?

Impact on livestock is minimal. Sheep, cows and horses are not disturbed by wind turbines and typically graze right up to the base of the towers, which they often use as rubbing posts or for shade.

Impacts on cropping are mainly due to the access tracks, substation and turbine towers. The quantity of land lost is a small percentage of the overall land, and is minimised through the use of existing access tracks where possible.

Depending on the site, agricultural aviation such as crop dusting or super phosphate spreading may be affected. Agricultural pilots are usually highly trained and operate very manoeuvrable aircraft at extremely low altitudes, consequently they are best placed to assess the potential impact.



Nacelle view of wind farm

Extensive tree planting within a short distance from turbines can slow the wind and cause turbulence and both of these factors will reduce the commercial returns generated by the wind farm, and so are normally not allowed. Stock shelters and environmental plantings can normally be accommodated.