

MT GELLIBRAND WIND FARM

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. The Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm is located approximately 25km east of Colac, in south west Victoria. ACCIONA looks forward to continuing a positive relationship with the local community and thanks you for your interest in the project.

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Project Update

All civil, turbine assembly and electrical works are now complete on the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm.

Furthermore, the substation and new power lines were energised at the start of June, enabling the commencement of the 'commissioning' process. This consists of a number of phases, prior to the turbines being ready for operation (i.e. producing electricity). Through this process, each turbine will be tested to ensure all controls and components are prepared for operations. Standard electrical tests are performed inside the turbine as well as on the cabling back to the substation.

The first electricity generation was also achieved in June 2018, producing green energy for Victorian households. The commissioning and testing process is continuing in order to bring the remaining turbines online. Once fully operational, the total output will power approximately 90,000 homes.

This project represents a \$258 million investment in the state and in the Australian renewables sector. We are immensely proud to see energy production starting. ACCIONA are also grateful to the local community for their support over the past 18 months, and to all the employees and local contractors for their hard work and dedication in reaching this milestone.

An Operations and Maintenance building is also currently under construction. This will accommodate onsite staff, as well as equipment and spare parts that will be necessary for ongoing maintenance of the wind farm. This will be located near the current site compound on Mooleric Road.

The Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm will be operated and maintained by a team of six fulltime technicians, a site manager and support staff. Our new technicians have all been employed from the local area, with existing qualifications in electrical and mechanical trades. We are proud to support the local community with new fulltime employment opportunities!

From Wind to Grid

We currently have 22 turbines fully commissioned and generating clean, green electricity. But how does the energy get to the power grid for use in homes and businesses?

Once electricity is generated by a wind turbine, it travels via an underground, cabled network from the base of every turbine to a kiosk transformer, located adjacent to each turbine. The electricity then travels from each kiosk via more underground cables to meet the new substation on Mooleric Road.

From here, the electricity travels via new overhead lines from the substation to the existing distribution powerlines on the Princes Highway, which is part of 'the grid'. 'The grid' is the complex transmission and distribution network that carries electricity from power stations across Australia to your home or business.



Completed turbines at the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm

Ministerial Visit to Mt Gellibrand



Visit from Lily D'Ambrosio Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change, with host landowners Tim and Mary Ann Holt, daughter Belinda, and grandchildren Harry and Jasmine

During June, Lily D'Ambrosio, Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change, visited the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm to see the first turbines in action. The Minister was also treated to a turbine climb, to learn more about the inner workings of the turbines.

Landowners Tim and Mary Ann Holt were also able to speak about their experience with the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm. The Minister was impressed with the project and very positive about the future of the wind industry in Victoria.

Wind Farm Open Day

On Sunday 21 October, 10 wind farms around Australia opened their gates to the public for a range of fun and informative open day events. Over 500 community members attended the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm to see the recently completed facility for themselves.

The Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm was a keen participant in this national initiative – supported by the Clean Energy Council and the Australian Wind Alliance.

Visitors were taken on bus tours around the site, stopping at one of the turbines where they got out for a closer look and were able to experience first-hand what a wind turbine looks and sounds like up close.

Most of the questions on the day related to how the wind farm works, the building process, the size and scale of the components and how the company manages energy production. We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Colac West for providing excellent BBQ and feeding our hungry visitors.

We were really pleased to host so many visitors. The fact that hundreds showed up gives a real sense of how interested people are, and how they want to learn about renewable energy and how clean power is generated.



Visitors enjoying the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Open Day

Electrical engineer Ben Dawson answers questions at the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Open Day



Local Community Benefits

ACCIONA is committed to supporting the local community. In 2012 the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm community sponsorship fund was established. Since then it has contributed over \$120,000 towards community and education programs.

In 2018, we received a record number of sponsorship applications for events and activities within the local area. The following organisations and events were successful:

We thank all of the organisations for sharing their fantastic projects with us and look forward to continuing to working alongside the community in 2019.

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Anam Cara House Colac Inc	\$1,620
Birregurra Festival and Art Show	\$2,000
Birregurra Fire Brigade	\$1,400
Birregurra Football and Netball Club	\$2,500
Birregurra Preschool	\$1,500
Birregurra Primary School	\$1,750
Colac Area Health	\$2,500
Colac Driver Reviver	\$1,190
Colac Specialist School	\$3,500
Rotary Club Colac West	\$2,000
Winchelsea Horticultural and Garden Club	\$500
Wingeel Fire Brigade	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$21,960

Education Scholarship Program

In 2018, we also launched our Education Scholarship program. The program is open to all recent high school graduates from the Colac Otway Shire wishing to enter further study at TAFE or University.

This program aims to support students in the local area with the costs involved in undertaking further study. We also anticipate that their chosen courses will benefit the community in the future.

The successful students chosen in 2018 were Taylor Gray and Areyu Spokes. They both received \$5,000 towards their study costs. Taylor is studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) in Melbourne; and Areyu is studying Conservation and Land Management at TAFE in Geelong. We wish them the best of luck for their studies this year!

Applications for the 2019 program are now open. Head to our website for more information (www.accionacom.au).



Students at Birregurra Primary School assembling solar lights

Are you planning to commence tertiary studies in 2019?

ACCIONA is now taking scholarship applications.

ACCIONA through its Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm shared benefits program is providing a local student with a \$5000 scholarship to assist with their tertiary studies in 2019. Applications are open to prospective University and TAFE students, who recently finished high school in the Colac Otway region. Scholarship application forms can be accessed through our website.

Applications close on Friday 4 January 2019.

For more information, please call our toll-free community hotline number on 1800 283 550 or send an enquiry to mtgellibrand@accionacom

Shared Benefits Program

The Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm will continue their support of the local community through a Shared Benefits Program for the operational life of the project. The framework for this program is currently in development.

However, in early 2019 we will be looking for committee members to support the implementation of our Shared Benefits Program.

The committee’s role will involve the review of community sponsorship applications alongside ACCIONA Staff.

Please contact us on 1800 283 550 if you would like more information or are interested in this opportunity.



Committee members of the Colac Driver Reviver

Meet our team



Nathan Saunders, Site Manager

As the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Site Manager, Nathan ensures that the day-to-day operation of the wind farm is running smoothly, managing both ACCIONA staff and subcontractors.

Nathan comes to the project with considerable electrical experience and has been a member of our Asset Services Team in Melbourne for 4 years and previously to this role was in the Melbourne Control Room.

Nathan has recently moved to Colac with his family to work on the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm. Outside of work, Nathan likes to spend time with the family, gardening and going for runs.

Any Questions?

ACCIONA is committed to engaging with the local community surrounding the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm. We acknowledge the importance and value of feedback (including both enquiries and complaints).

We can be contacted via our free call community information hotline **1800 283 550**, by email at mtgellibrand@acciona.com, or by post PO Box 24110, Melbourne VIC 3001.

A copy of the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm Complaint and Evaluation Process can be found on our website.



**MT GELLIBRAND
WIND FARM**

CONTACT US

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number **1800 283 550** or email mtgellibrand@acciona.com.

For more information about other ACCIONA projects visit our website www.acciona.com.au

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