

# MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM

Welcome to the 20th edition of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. The Mortlake South Wind Farm is located approximately 5kms south of Mortlake and 7kms north of Terang, within the Moyne Shire. ACCIONA looks forward to continuing a positive relationship with the local community as construction moves ahead and we thank you for your interest in the project. The project will produce 530Gwh of clean energy each year, which is enough to power about 115,000 homes annually. The construction phase will mean the creation of around 100 jobs, plus approx. 10 during the operational phase.

### EDITION 20 | NOVEMBER 2020



### **Project Update**

We are heading into an exciting period for the Mortlake South Wind Farm, as the transportation of turbine components onto site has commenced. This marks the beginning of wind turbine installation a significant milestone for the project!

The wind turbines are composed of a tower (four sections), three blades, a hub and a nacelle (which houses the gears, generators and electrical conversion equipment). These main components are all transported to the site separately due to their size and weight.

In September, the first group of steel towers arrived onsite from Haywards Steel in Tasmania. They were delivered via the Western and Glenelg Highways as per the endorsed traffic management plan. The remaining steel towers are being transported to site from Keppel Prince in Portland.

The steel towers for the Mortlake South Wind Farm are Australian made and ACCIONA is proud to again be working with Keppel Prince in Portland who have supported us on past Victorian projects (Waubra Wind Farm and Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm). In addition to the direct positive impacts on local employment in the renewable energy sector, procuring locally made towers for the Mortlake South Wind Farm has contributed to the expansion of the Keppel Prince manufacturing facilities, supporting the economy in south west Victoria.

Turbine components, including blades, hubs, nacelles and drivetrains, have also started to arrive onsite from the Port of Portland.

These are being transported via the Henty Highway and Glenelg Highway (passing through Heywood, Hamilton, Bulart, Dunkeld and Lake Bolac) and via the Princes Highway as per the endorsed traffic management plan.

Each turbine component will be assembled separately, moved into place by large cranes and bolted into position. We anticipate that turbine installation will commence in November 2020 and continue through until April 2021.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for their patience during our construction and delivery works. For additional information on the turbine component delivery routes (including maps), please visit our website below: www.acciona.com.au/mortlake





### Onsite Safety and COVID-19 Response

We hope everyone is staying safe. Works have been continuing on site, with strict measurements in place to keep staff, contractors and the community safe. Risk assessments and a COVID Safe Plan have been implemented in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Department of Health and Human Services.



# **Grid Connection and Electrical works**

The installation of the MV reticulation (electrical cables that link the wind turbines to the onsite substation) is progressing well. Two thirds of the cable have now been installed (25km out of a total 39.5km). The installation of these cables is expected to be completed by December 2020. Construction of the substation is also progressing well, with completion and energisation anticipated for early 2021.

Construction of the 220kv underground connection line has recommenced,

following a short break over the wet winter months. The trenching and backfilling of the conduits has been completed. The electrical cables have now been installed in the conduits and jointing work is underway.

The underground connection line will connect the wind farm to the National Electricity Grid via the Terang Terminal Station. The 220kV underground connection line is anticipated to be completed by February 2021. You will have noticed traffic controls in place when works are occurring within the road reserves on Riley's Road, Bramich Lane and Keilambete Road.

ACCIONA will continue to work closely with Moyne and Corangamite Shires to ensure traffic impacts are minimised. We have also been consulting with local landowners along the route to ensure they are informed about construction plans and progress.





### **Preparing for Operations**

Construction of the Operations and Maintenance Building (O&M Building) is well underway by Bolden Constructions, a Warrnambool based company. Located on the corner of Tapps Lane and the Terang-Mortlake Road, this will be a permanent office, warehouse and workshop for the wind farm's operations team.

The ACCIONA operations and maintenance team will be based full-time onsite for the life of the wind farm and will consist of a number of wind turbine technicians, an administrator and a site manager. Recruitment for the site manager position is currently underway.





### **Meet the Team**

With installation of the turbines set to commence in November, meet two team members integral to this process.

#### Carlton 'Taff' Smith

Taff is the Lifting Manager for the Mortlake South Wind Farm. He has spent the last 40 years working on various construction projects around the world. Taff came to Australia 15 years ago to work at the Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine project in Western Australia and liked it here so much that he decided to stay! He is also now an Australian Citizen. Although many of the project team only know him as Taff, it is actually just a widely used nickname for Welsh people. The project is lucky to have someone with such a wealth of experience, especially in the critical stage of turbine assembly.

#### **Ruchira Welmillage**

Working as the Quality and Turbine Engineer for the Mortlake South Wind Farm, Ruchi is a vital member of the team. Starting with ACCIONA as an intern in 2015, Ruchi has gained years of valuable experience working with wind turbines in our operations team and also on the construction of Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm. In his spare time, he enjoys hitting a couple of golf balls at the local driving range and exploring the local cuisines on offer (especially a chicken parma!) Ruchi hopes to progress further with ACCIONA and leave his mark on the renewable energy sector.





Ruchira Welmillage

# **Construction Timeline**





### **Neighbourhood Benefit Program**

Applications have opened for the second round of the Neighbourhood Benefit Program. If you live within 4km of a wind turbine (own or rent the dwelling) and have not yet applied, we encourage you to do so.

The Neighbourhood Benefit Program is a payment provided to residents of dwellings located within proximity bands from wind turbine generators. The payments are not made in cash – they are made via pre-loaded EFTPOS cards, known as Neighbourhood Benefits Cards.

This program shares the benefits of the wind farm with the people who live closest to the project, and also ensures money is spent within the local community at participating businesses in Mortlake, Noorat and Terang. This program will continue annually for the next 10 years.

There are currently 41 participating businesses across the three towns. If you are a business who would like to accept these cards via your existing EFTPOS machines, please let us know.



### Off-site Landscaping Program

Landscaping and visual screening is offered to owners of dwellings within 4km of a wind turbine generator, to help reduce the visual impact of the wind farm. If you own an eligible dwelling within this area, please submit an expression of interest to receive a visual screening assessment from

a qualified landscape architect.

The landscaping plan will be designed to suit your needs and preferences, where possible. ACCIONA will arrange this meeting and cover all costs involved for the plan, tree planting and maintenance for 3 years.



### How does a wind turbine work?

Wind turbines convert the energy of the wind into electricity. Wind turns the blades which spin a shaft connected to a generator, producing electricity. This electricity travels through a transformer and into the local electricity network.

Wind turbines generally start to turn at wind speeds of three metres per second. Most turbines reach maximum power output at a wind speed of around 15m/s (54km/hr). At gale force winds of about 25m/s and above, the

blades are angled or 'feathered' into the wind and generation is stopped so that the wind turbines are not damaged. The rotor turns the blades at approximately nine to 15 revolutions per minute at a maximum tip speed of 230km/h.

The nacelle, which contains a generator, transmission system and power control equipment, is designed so that it can rotate around the tower to face into the wind, allowing the turbine to produce electricity regardless of wind direction.



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#### 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 <u>mortlake@acciona.com</u>. Visit our website for more information about our other projects www.acciona.com.au

### ACCIONA HEAD OFFICE

Level 38, 360 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

PO BOX 24110 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

(03) 9027 1000

www.acciona.com.au

