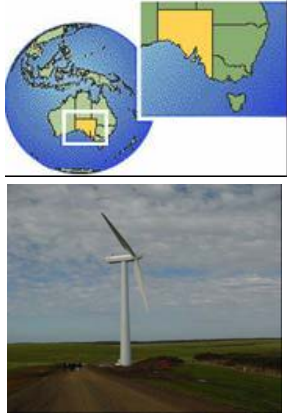


# PROJECT DATA

## Heemskirk Wind Farm



<b>CLIENT</b>	Hydro Tasmania Renewables Development
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Tasmania
<b>DATE OF PROJECT</b>	2000 to present
<b>SERVICES PROVIDED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site identification and land owner agreements to secure site</li><li>• Wind monitoring and energy estimates</li><li>• Preliminary design</li><li>• Full feasibility study</li><li>• Environmental approvals</li></ul>

The licence area for the proposed Heemskirk Wind Farm lies on a remote and largely uninhabited stretch of Tasmania's West Coast, between the tiny coastal settlements of Trial Harbour and Granville Harbour, west of Zeehan. A land agreement negotiated by Wind Energy Solutions has been in place with the Crown (State Government) since 2000.

### Background

Lying south of the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel in the path of prevailing westerly winds, Tasmania has world-class resources for the generation of wind power.

The Heemskirk Wind Farm project is one of several staged developments to harness Tasmania's wind energy resource.

### Community consultation

Careful and thorough consultation with the local community and other stakeholders is a key feature of Hydro Tasmania's wind power developments.

The opinions of local people who use the area around the proposed wind farm have been sought through surveys and public meetings, while newsletters are circulated to inform the community of progress.

### Potential project scope

Feasibility studies have shown that a development of 159 MW is viable at the site. The preferred layout is 53 turbines with a blade diameter of 90 metres.

### Feasibility

Wind Energy Solutions began monitoring the wind resource of the West Coast in 1982. Monitoring towers have been erected to assess the



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available wind power resource. This enables a better estimate of the viability of the project. Other feasibility studies undertaken include foundation and road assessment and power line and transport options studies.

## **Approvals process**

Before a wind farm development can proceed, appropriate planning and environmental approvals are sought from Local, State and Federal governments. To support its application, Hydro Tasmania's Consulting Division has prepared a Development Proposal & Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP) for the project. The DPEMP is a public document and was available for inspection and comment in January 2003. In response to public and government agency comments, a Supplement to the DPEMP was prepared. The DPEMP and Supplement identify the potential impacts of the project, and measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for those impacts. Commitments made in the DPEMP are incorporated into conditions attached to the approval for the project to proceed.

The project will be presented to State and local authorities for approval in late 2005.

## **Environmental focus**

Identifying and assessing potential environmental impacts and outlining management strategies that mitigate adverse consequences are essential aspects of the Heemskirk Wind Farm DPEMP.

Scientists from Wind Energy Solutions have conducted environmental impact studies across the licence area, including flora and fauna surveys. Vegetation communities were assessed to identify the presence of any rare or threatened plant species that may need protection during the development. It was found that vegetation in the wind farm area is mainly buttongrass moorland, a vegetation type that occupies about 14 percent of Tasmania. There has been significant fire degradation to the area.

Fauna surveys included trap and release, spotlighting and bat surveys, and extensive bird studies during both the spring and autumn migratory seasons. Visual impact assessment, communications interference, noise assessment, EMF studies and socio-economic studies have also been conducted.

Aboriginal and European cultural heritage studies have been conducted on site by Aboriginal Heritage Officers from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council as well as a consultant archaeologist.

Rigorous assessment of the potential impact to birds, in particular the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot, has concluded that the risk of collision is extremely low, and would not affect the viability of any populations.

