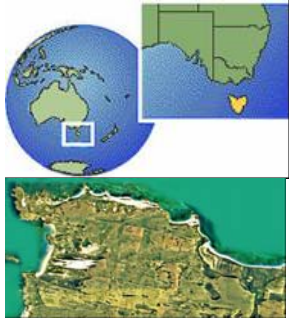


PROJECT DATA

Musselroe Wind Farm



CLIENT

Hydro Tasmania Renewables Development

PROJECT LOCATION

Little Musselroe Bay, NE Tasmania

DATE OF PROJECT

2000 to present

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Site identification and land owner agreements to secure site
- Wind monitoring and energy estimates
- Preliminary design
- Full feasibility study
- Environmental approvals
- Obtaining all development approvals

The Musselroe Wind Farm project is one of several planned staged developments to harness Tasmania's world-class wind energy resource. Other planned developments are the Heemskirk wind farm on the west coast of Tasmania and stage 3 of the Woolnorth wind farm, on the north west coast of Tasmania.

Little Musselroe Bay is on Tasmania's far north-east coast, close to the eastern entrance to Bass Strait. The proposed wind farm site is on the privately-owned Cape Portland grazing property, 100 kilometres north-east of Launceston and 20 kilometres north of Gladstone.

Background

Lying south of the 40th parallel in the path of prevailing westerly winds, Tasmania has world-class resources for the generation of wind power. The Musselroe wind farm is one of several staged developments planned 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.

At Musselroe, a land agreement has been in place between the Cape Portland landowner and Hydro Tasmania since 2000.

Feasibility Studies

Wind Energy Solutions has completed all technical and economic feasibility analysis, which included reporting to our clients on the most suitable transmission connection design, in addition to the preliminary civil, electrical and wind farm design.



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The feasibility study has shown that a development of 129MW is viable at the site, comprising 43 wind turbines with a blade diameter of 90 metres.

Progress report

Hydro Tasmania has been monitoring the wind in the Musselroe area since the early 1980s. Data gathered suggests that the area's wind resource is world-class.

A new monitoring tower was erected in early 2002 to investigate the wind potential of the site in more detail.

Anemometers installed on the tower at heights of 30, 50 and 70 metres are collecting wind measurements and their data will be used to select the best locations for wind turbines.

Stage one of the development will require a transmission line to be constructed to connect the wind farm to Transend.

Transmission route options are currently being investigated along with comprehensive field studies to ensure that corridor selection minimises environmental impacts.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Identifying and assessing potential environmental impacts and outlining management strategies that mitigate adverse consequences were essential aspects of the Musselroe Wind Farm Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP).

Wind Energy Solutions undertook extensive field surveys including the collation of data on Aboriginal and European heritage, social, economic, visual, flora and fauna values. Important issues for the site were areas of cultural significance and the diverse populations of bird species.

Flora impacts will be minimal as the proposed wind farm site is mainly grazing land with only small areas of native vegetation. Visual and noise impacts will be minor due to the site's isolation from populated areas.

As part of the feasibility study there was liaison with landowners who may be affected by the transmission line and its easement. These discussions led to re-routing of the initial corridor to accommodate farming requirements.

Development Application

Appropriate approvals, through completion of detailed Development Applications, have been granted by Local, State and Federal Governments.

Following receipt of all approvals in early 2005, the project will proceed into implementation in mid-2006 following a bird monitoring period.

