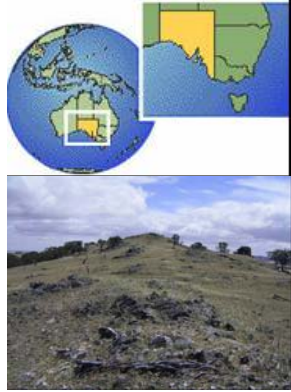


PROJECT DATA

Waterloo Wind Farm



CLIENT

Hydro Tasmania Renewables Development

PROJECT LOCATION

South Australia

DATE OF PROJECT

2003 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 Waterloo Wind farm site lies 30 Kilometres south east of Clare and 100 kilometres north of Adelaide. The site occupies an area approximately 17 kilometres in length on top of a ridgeline and is located on private agricultural land.

Approvals have been granted to construct 39 wind turbines at the Waterloo site, which have a combined generating capacity of 117 megawatts. Construction is planned to commence in January 2006. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$190 million.

Background

Hydro Tasmania is Australia's leading renewable energy generator, contributing approximately 60 percent of Australia's renewable energy production. Hydro Tasmania has been developing and generating renewable hydropower for nearly 100 years and wind power since 1998.

The production of greenhouse gas emissions is pushing global temperatures to artificially high levels and altering the climate, which is one of the most serious challenges facing mankind in the 21st century. Around 80% of Australia's electricity is supplied from coal-fired power stations, and these are currently responsible for about 30% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions. By using clean, climate friendly wind power, as will be produced from the Waterloo Wind Farm, Hydro Tasmania is reducing emissions and helping to mitigate against further climate change.

Approvals process

Prior to the Waterloo Wind Farm proceeding, appropriate approvals were sought and obtained from Local, State and Federal governments.

The development application was the key document used by government agencies to assess the project. On 9 December 2004 a development application was submitted to the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council and the



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PROJECT DATA

Goyder Regional Council. The document contained the findings of extensive studies into the impacts the wind farm will have on the surrounding environment. In accordance with the South Australian Development Act 1993, the councils advertised the development application and sought public comment. The Development Assessment Panel made its decision to approve construction of the wind farm in June 2005. The project was also referred to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in January 2005 and was determined to be an uncontrolled action.

Environmental focus

As part of the approvals process, Hydro Tasmania undertook extensive environmental studies. The studies included the assessment of potential impacts to flora, fauna, the physical environment, Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage, visual amenity, noise levels, communications and socio-economic values.

Extensive clearing of native vegetation for cropping and grazing has had a substantial impact on the native flora and fauna habitat at the Waterloo site. Assessments indicate that no significant fauna issues, including issues associated with birds, are present and a carefully managed project will minimise potential impacts.

Furthermore, as there is very little remnant native vegetation remaining, construction activities will be designed to minimise impacts on the remains.

Consultation with the Ngadjuri Aboriginal people, the traditional landowners of the Waterloo site, and a review of the South Australian Aboriginal heritage register have indicated that there are no sites of interest. However, in the event that sites, artefacts, or burials are uncovered during construction, work will cease at that location to allow assessment of significance and resolution of the discovery.

Feasibility

Hydro Tasmania began monitoring the wind resource at the Waterloo site in July 2003 using a 50-metre monitoring tower located at the southern end of the site and an 80-metre tower at the northern end. Data collected confirms that Waterloo has a viable wind resource for development.

Community consultation

Careful and thorough consultation with the local community and key stakeholders is an important aspect of all Hydro Tasmania's wind farm developments. Hydro Tasmania has engaged the surrounding community through an extensive consultation process, which involved:

- public information sessions
- survey of local community perceptions
- briefings
- consultation with the Aboriginal community.

In order to maintain close relationships with landowners, Hydro Tasmania's Community Consultation Officer, located in Adelaide, provides regular project updates.

