



CONROY'S GAP WIND FARM

Community Update – March 2006

Background

This newsletter updates you of the **Conroy's Gap Wind Farm** proposal. A Community Update released in November 2005 gave background to the proposal, a copy is available from Taurus Energy on request.

The first public Open House held in Yass on 16th November was well attended, with around 50 local residents providing feedback on the proposal. Community reaction to the proposal is mixed, with a recent independent poll showing around two thirds of respondents in favour, and one third against the development.

Public consultation and specialist studies continued through December 2005 to February 2006. Detailed studies of biodiversity (flora & fauna), heritage (European & Aboriginal), visual impacts and noise impacts have been largely completed, resulting in various changes to the proposal as discussed below. These studies will be available for public viewing on our website and at the next Open House.

Taurus Energy is now seeking further input to the proposal before lodging a Development Application with the NSW Department of Planning in April/May 2006.

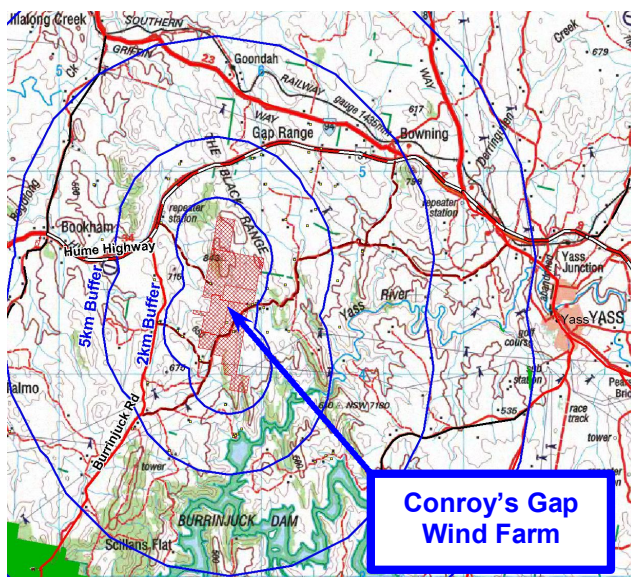
Conroy's Gap Wind Farm



Figure 1 - Photomontage of proposed Conroy's Gap Wind Farm, looking south-west from Graces Flat Rd (5km from nearest turbine)

Where would it be located?

Conroy's Gap Wind Farm would be located 15km west of Yass, in an area known as The Black Range.



Why a wind farm at Conroy's Gap?

The wind farm will have a number of benefits:

- ▶ up to 99,000 MWh of renewable electricity per year, sufficient for the average consumption of up to 12,700 homes;
- ▶ Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of up to 99,000 tonnes per year of carbon dioxide (equiv)
- ▶ This is equivalent to taking up to 19,800 cars off our roads for 30 years;
- ▶ Savings of 118 to 130 Million litres per year of potable water used in coal fired power stations;
- ▶ Annual savings in pollution from coal fired power stations of up to 561,000 kilograms of sulfur dioxide, up to 243,000 kilograms of nitrogen oxides, and up to 2180 kilograms of particulates;
- ▶ A Community Fund of \$25,000 per annum to broaden the local benefits and provide for local community and environmental projects;
- ▶ Provision of local jobs and injection of up to \$10 Million into the local economy.



Details of the proposal

What is proposed?

- ▶ up to 15 wind turbines, each with three blades up to 46m long mounted on a tubular steel tower up to 80m high;
- ▶ electrical connections between turbines using underground and overhead cable;
- ▶ access roads around the site, and minor upgrades to access via Paynes Rd;
- ▶ a substation linking the turbines to the existing Transgrid powerline located on site, including an on-site control room/equipment storage facility.

Conroy's Gap Wind Farm will connect to the national electricity network, with electricity primarily sent towards Yass or Wagga.

Are we being listened to?

The proposal has been revised based on community feedback and results of site studies:

- ▶ **Turbine placements on the eastern ridge of the project have been removed**, with all turbines now focused on the western and southern ridges to reduce visual and noise concerns to landowners along Black Range Rd and Graces Flat Rd
- ▶ Road access will now be concentrated on Paynes Rd to minimise traffic on Black Range Rd.
- ▶ Taurus will (at its cost) establish a program to provide surrounding residents with visual screening if residences are highly impacted by the wind farm.
- ▶ Taurus will establish a Community Fund with \$25,000 annually from the project for community initiatives in the area such as sporting and community facilities, weed and pest management, event sponsorship or scholarships, or land care funding.

Indicative timeframe

Nov 05 - Feb 06	Specialist studies & site assessment completed Government & Community consultation including 1st public Open-House
Mar 06 - Apr 06	2 nd public Open House presenting results of the studies and final proposal Environmental Assessment Report completed Development Application lodged
May 06 -	Public exhibition & final public comment Assessment by Department of Planning
2007	Proposed construction commencing 2007

How can you find out more?

What is the process?

Taurus Energy is now finalising its proposal for submission to NSW Department of Planning in April/May 2006.

Once submitted, the Development Application and Environmental Assessment Report will be put on public display for minimum of 30 days.

The Department of Planning and Taurus Energy will then consider any public submissions prior to the Department determining the Development Application.

Open House – 6th April 2006

Taurus Energy is holding a second open house to present the proposal and answer any questions. Presentations and displays will focus on noise and visual aspects, with photomontages showing what the wind farm would look like from various locations.

- DATE:** 6th April 2006
WHEN : between 3pm & 7pm, drop in any time
WHERE: Yass Memorial Hall, Comur St, Yass

Project updates – register interest

Updates will be available on our website www.taurusenergy.com.au or register for further updates below. We will alert the local media as well, so please watch your local papers.

Draft copies of the specialist reports for the Development Application will be available on our website around a week before the Open House, or if you contact us directly we can send a CD including the reports. Paper copies will be available for viewing at the Open House.

Having your say on the project

Taurus Energy is keen to continue incorporating comments and feedback from the community in planning the Conroy's Gap Wind Farm.

Email us: ConroysGap@taurusenergy.com.au

Write to us: Conroy's Gap Wind Farm
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