

St Patricks Plains Wind Farm

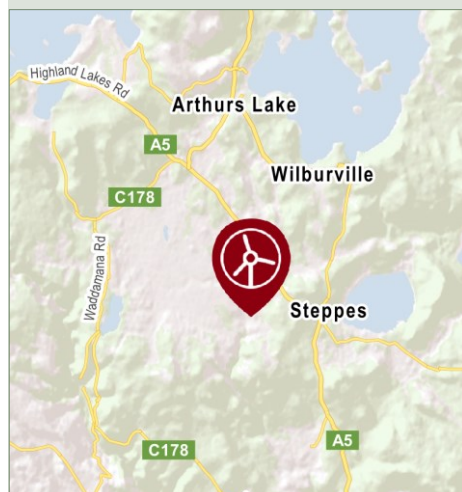
Project Update

May 2022



Photomontage from Highland Lakes Road near Steppes Hall

Location



The St Patricks Plains Wind Farm site is about 10 km south-east of Miena and 30 km north of Bothwell, in the Central Highlands.

It is in Tasmania's Midlands Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), one of three areas in Tasmania identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator as optimal for new renewable energy projects.

The proposal involves 47 wind turbines. The Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is due to be lodged with the Central Highlands Council in Q3 2022.

Once the EIS has been reviewed by Council and the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) it will be placed on public exhibition. During the exhibition period information sessions will be scheduled with the project team.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who have engaged with us throughout the planning and assessment phase of the project. This input has played a valuable role in helping us to minimise the potential impacts on the environment, property owners and residents, and to better understand the priorities and benefits of most value to the local community.

We also gratefully acknowledge the local enthusiasm for the project as highlighted by the petition of support and in a story published by community advocacy organisation RE-Alliance, which is available online at: www.re-alliance.org.au/st_patricks_plains_windfarm

The last studies required to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are being incorporated into the EIS, and it will then be prepared for lodgement.

Noise limit reduced

The Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) has lowered the noise limit for the project by 5dB, to 35dB or the existing background noise plus 5dB. The direction amending the limit was confirmed by Epuron in March. It aligns with the limit in most other Australian states and is understood to be the most stringent operational noise limit for wind farms internationally.

As shown by the results of the predictive noise modelling shared at information sessions in February, the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm is already predicted to comply with this threshold at all non-involved receivers (dwellings) apart from one, where compliance can be achieved by wind turbine management. Please see the map overleaf showing the predicted noise contours.

Following a recent court case involving noise and the Bald Hills Wind Farm, Epuron would like to assure the community of the robustness of the project's noise assessment and noise monitoring required during operation. The wind farm is a \$560 million investment and Epuron is being diligent in ensuring that assessments are accurate and can be independently verified. As part of this process the project team is providing the background noise data to an acoustician nominated by a community member to review on behalf of a number of local residents.

For those who are interested *The National Law Review* has published an article that explains the judgement and implications of the *Uren v Bald Hills Wind Farm Pty Ltd* [2022] VSC 145 case:

www.natlawreview.com/article/victorian-wind-farm-ordered-to-pay-damages-and-curb-night-noise-nuisance

