



Delburn Wind Farm - Latrobe Valley's First Wind Farm - is welcomed by Strzelecki Sustainable Futures.

Strzelecki Sustainable Futures are a grass-roots community group who are excited to support the flagship Delburn Wind Farm project which, if approved, will be the Latrobe Valley's first wind-farm. We support this project for the following reasons:

- The Delburn Wind Farm will make a positive contribution towards the much needed renewable generation required to replace the ageing coal fired power stations and the transition to a zero carbon electricity grid.
- The latest science from IPCC, IEC says we need rapid decarbonisation globally to avoid the worst of global heating. There is no carbon budget for 1.5 and almost none for 2 degrees of warming. Every kilogram of CO₂ emitted by burning fossil fuels accelerates global heating, keeps the heating going longer and raises the final temperature. The contribution of up to 200 megawatts of electricity and 590,000T of Carbon Dioxide emissions saved, while small on a global scale, are nonetheless important.
- The Latrobe Valley is in the midst of transition away from its historical dependency on coal, and the Delburn Wind Farm will be a flagship move towards alternative jobs and economies that are needed for this change. It will provide a focus for locals to feel that they are part of the future.
- Utilising already degraded land (a HVP owned pine plantation site) and its existing roads and tracks and using an existing High Voltage transmission line which is underutilised with the closure of Hazelwood, the Delburn Wind farm site is very suitable for the project.
- OSMI's proposal has been developed to fulfil or exceed all regulatory requirements. This is especially relevant for near neighbours who are most likely to experience effects like noise, flicker and loss of visual amenity.
- The project is advantaged by the generous offsets for the small loss of roadside vegetation that is largely of low vegetation quality. OSMI's proposal to augment and link existing areas of valuable vegetation via offsets is widely supported by the community and adds environmental value to the project.
- Climate Change impacts make fire a real concern for both HVP and locals. Each of the turbines will have lightning rods installed reducing the likelihood of ignition by dry lightning. An area of pines will be cleared around each turbine and access roads widened and upgraded for installation. Wind farm workers and HVP foresters trained in fire-fighting will be regularly on the site and extra water storages will be installed. We believe this will result in better fire detection and more effective and safer access for fire control vehicles. We understand that Aerial firefighting will not be limited by the presence of the wind turbines.
- We have confidence that OSMI have used industry best practice in regard to their community engagement throughout the project. They have had a shopfront for over 2 years

with information, 3D VR visualisations and the opportunity to discuss the project and its potential impact. They have run open days in surrounding communities and have an informative website with large amounts of the technical data and which is regularly updated. They have now developed a community consultancy committee where all stakeholder groups can be represented.

- A healthy community has diverse views and the SSF formed to vocalise the positives about the project, to share peer reviewed science based research and to engage in respectful dialogue. We provide a balance for those who have used scare tactics to push for a united front against the wind-farm. While passionate and loud they do not reflect the position of many in the region who have often-times being bullied into silence.
- The Delburn Wind farm project will bring many benefits to the local population. The Community Benefits scheme will provide ongoing direct financial benefits to neighbours, local communities, and local governments. The opportunities for share purchase and ongoing jobs will also give the local communities buy in to this project.
- The SSF welcomes this technically superior and ground breaking wind-farm as a positive and appropriate local renewable development for the Latrobe Valley, that will help it move away from its historical dependence on coal for power generation without impacting on environmental concerns or the quality of life of its neighbours.

Cath Thompson & Trevor Hoare
on behalf
of SSF: StrzeleckiSustainableFutures@gmail.com