

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Collector Wind Farm Community Newsletter. This newsletter is to provide you with:

- an update on Transfield Services' environmental and planning investigations;
- details of upcoming community consultation sessions; and
- information on the proposed Community Investment Fund.

This newsletter follows our first issue circulated in September 2010. Since that time we have undertaken a number of community consultation activities, including:

- A Community Open House on 14 October 2010 at Collector Memorial Hall, which was attended by more than 100 Collector residents and other interested parties;
- Compilation of a Question and Answer document, providing a summary of the issues raised by attendees at the Open House;
- A presentation to Upper Lachlan Shire Council on 21 October;
- Discussions and correspondence via email and letter with individual residents; and
- A meeting with the Collector Community Association.

Planning Update

The Collector Wind Farm project will be considered by the NSW Department of Planning (the Department) as a "critical infrastructure project" under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Part 3A of this Act requires that Transfield Services prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) report, which considers the potential impacts of the project on the environment and community. We are now at Stage 5 in the planning process illustrated below.



We have recently submitted a revised Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) to the Department. The PEA, which contains a revised wind farm layout, can be found on Transfield Services website – http://windfarms.net.au/html/development_portfolio/collector.php – or a copy can be sent to you on request.

We had originally planned to submit the EA report to the Department prior to Christmas. However, following the Open House and feedback received, we decided to undertake further assessment and now propose to make our submission to the Department in mid-February. The Department will then review the environmental assessment report and determine whether it adequately addresses the requirements for the preparation of the report and is suitable for public exhibition. This review will take several weeks and may require Transfield Services to make revisions to the report.

Once the Department is satisfied that the report is adequate it will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 30 days (Stage 6). We expect public exhibition to commence in late March; however we will provide a community update when the exact date is known. During the exhibition period the EA report and the associated technical reports will be available for public review. Interested parties may make a submission to the Department during the exhibition period.

Community Consultation Update

Transfield Services recognises that the planning documents for a project like the Collector Wind Farm can be large and complex. A 30-day period allows only limited time for this information to be considered and for submissions to be made. We believe the local community should be given every opportunity to gain a better understanding of our proposal prior to the formal public exhibition period. For this reason we are proposing a number of community consultation activities in the lead-up to the public exhibition. This consultation will occur during the Department's "test of adequacy" review of the EA report.

Thank you to all those who attended the Community Open House in October 2010. As we anticipated, the local community expressed a range of views about the project. This feedback has proved invaluable to us in preparing our EA report and guiding the wind farm design process. The original wind farm layout has been adjusted several times since the Open House to reduce visual impact, ensure compliance with noise guidelines and avoid telecommunications interference.

As part of Transfield Services ongoing commitment to involve the community throughout the development process, we will be holding:

- one-on-one consultation sessions with interested residents within 5km of the wind farm site; and
- a second Community Open House on Thursday 3 March at the Collector Memorial Hall from 3.00pm to 8.00pm.

These sessions will provide an opportunity for you to hear about the findings of our environmental investigations, ask questions, and advise of any concerns you may have. We would also like to explain the planning process and the opportunities there are for community input to the Department's decision-making process.

Should you be interested in a one-on-one consultation session please contact Transfield Services' Project Manager by Friday 18 February. We will be scheduling these sessions for the week beginning 28 February.

Community Investment Fund

As part of our commitment to the local community, Transfield Services is proposing to establish a Community Investment Fund and contribute approximately \$180,000 to the fund each year. The fund would be maintained throughout the operational life of the project for investment in community-based projects.

We are currently examining potential models for the structure and administration of the Fund and would like the community to contribute ideas in this regard. We will provide further information on the fund at the Community Open House, where we will be inviting feedback from the Collector community. We have also commenced discussions with the Collector Community Association on this matter.

Where can I get further information and updates?

Transfield Services website – windfarms.net.au – will be regularly updated over the coming months. For those interested residents who were unable to attend the October Open House we encourage you to register your details via the website so we can keep you up-to-date.

Transfield Services' Project Manager, **Nick Valentine**, will also be available on **02 9963 9924** or by email at valentinen@transfieldservices.com should you have any queries.