



# Shooting the Breeze...

Official newsletter of Denmark Community Windfarm Inc

No 1

February 2004

## The community windfarm project is now one year old !

With six months' wind data under our belt we are halfway to completing the necessary one-year feasibility study.

The past year of laying foundations and community consultation has brought us to the point where we are ready to launch the development phase of the proposal, which could see the windfarm being built by this time next year. Now that's an incentive!

The DCW media sub-committee has done a fantastic job of keeping the community informed, and responding to public concerns, with more than 15 articles published in newspapers, including *The West Australian*. The WA Museum's 'Wind at Work' exhibition in the foyer of the Denmark shire in July was a great success.

A legally constituted not-for-profit organisation, 'Denmark Community Windfarm Inc' was established in September 2003 to run the show, keep an eye on project financials and guide development of a sound business case for the project.

The other party involved in the project from the beginning is locally-owned wind energy company SkyFarming, which is consulting to DCW on technical matters and developing a business case for the windfarm. Directors Paul Llewellyn and Andrew Woodroffe have been working incredibly hard to get this, the first project of its kind in Australia, off the ground - literally and metaphorically!

SkyFarming negotiated with Western Power for connection and access to the state power grid and is currently investigating the setup costs and long-



**In good company** Last September's public workshop set guidelines for the corporate structure of the windfarm project.

term running costs of the project. SkyFarming also applied for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the project and has made presentations to The Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO), WA Office of Energy, Western Power, The Denmark Shire, Great Southern Area Consultative Committee (GSACC), Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) and others.

After three community enterprise workshops last year, facilitated by John Croft of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, we now have a clear direction and conceptual model for setting up the legal and financial structures for the project.

A public company will be created to receive investments in the windfarm, with a not-for-profit community trust holding a proportion of shares and using proceeds to fund local community projects such as youth facilities, cycleways and a community swimming pool.

On a lighter note, we have been sure to celebrate our achievements along the way, and Margaret Leslie has not only kept our files in order, she has also sustained us with scones, muffins and biscuits after every general meeting. 'The Hot Air Night' in September was a hoot, and we will be holding a 'One Giant Leap Year' celebration on February 28 - see the posters around town for details.

*This way to the future ...* →

### STOP PRESS

A wind modelling study of seven potential windfarm sites has just been completed.

As expected, the lime quarry site behind Ocean Beach proved to be the best (see graph on back page).

Skyfarming will now assess each of the sites to see whether adequate physical space and infrastructure exists to support a windfarm.

# Turning to the future

DCW is a big idea, and that means having a big 'conversation of possibilities' in the wider Denmark community. The project has the potential to deliver huge environmental, economic and social benefits to the whole community.

**YOUR HELP IN GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS AND PROMOTING INFORMED DISCUSSION IS REALLY IMPORTANT.**



**Going up...** Construction of the wind monitoring mast began in August last year, behind the lime quarry above Ocean Beach. Data since collected indicate that the proposed windfarm site has exceptional wind capabilities.

## What's next . . .

- Continued community liaison: media and publicity, community events, workshops, exhibitions
- Planning and development approval
- Full feasibility study
- Set up legal and financial structures
- Develop and implement the project funding strategy
- Negotiate power purchase arrangements
- Call tenders for wind turbines; civil and electrical works
- Celebrate achievements along the way.

# Getting involved

DCW is first and foremost a *community* venture: by the community, for the community. This means people who live and work in the shire; who own property here; and family and friends who visit.

- Become a member of DCW Inc, and plug in to our growing email group and receive regular updates. Membership forms can be obtained by phoning one of the contacts shown below.
- Offer to help organise events such as information evenings, stalls and workshops to raise investment funds, or artistic events based on wind energy.
- Get informed about the project by visiting [www.skyfarming.com.au](http://www.skyfarming.com.au) or visit the Australian Wind Energy Association website, [www.auswea.com.au](http://www.auswea.com.au)
- Hook up to the internet discussion group.
- If you have special expertise, such as accounting, planning, finance, legal, engineering, events organisation, management, publicity, listening, negotiation, artistic, catering, theatre, community development . . . there is a way for you to contribute to this project.

## COMING EVENTS

- WINDFARM INFORMATION STALL, Saturday 7 February.
- WINDFARM DISCUSSION NIGHT 7pm Tuesday 17 February – Denmark Environment Centre.
- "ONE GIANT LEAP YEAR CELEBRATION" 7pm Saturday 28 February, Boating & Angling clubrooms, Ocean Beach.



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