

Hopetoun Power Project

Horizon Power and our renewable energy partner, Verve Energy, are building a new \$7.5 million power station and a second wind turbine in Hopetoun to increase the quality and reliability of power supply in the area.

The benefit of this project - a cleaner environment

The new wind-diesel power system will mean that on average, approximately 40% of Hopetoun's power will be clean, green wind energy from the wind turbines. The diesel generators will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 2,100 tonnes and save up to 700,000 litres of diesel fuel a year. The Australian Greenhouse Office through the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program has provided funding towards the second wind turbine. Separate funding from the Renewable Energy Development Initiative is also being used to develop improvements to the control systems.

Construction well advanced

Construction of the new power station and 600 kW Enercon wind turbine is almost complete. The new wind turbine, seven special low load diesel (LLD) generators, seven transformers and the new control room housing the large main switchboard were all installed before Christmas.

Horizon Power has also completed all cabling work necessary to connect the new power station to the town grid.

Powercorp – a Darwin based company that has worked with Verve Energy over a number of years to develop these award winning LLD wind-diesel systems – is

currently installing kilometres of electrical cables in the power station to connect all of the different components together. The new generators have been started up and run on site. Powercorp's sophisticated control systems will play an integral part in the day-to-day operation of the LLDs and wind turbines. This will ensure that customers have a continuous and seamless electricity supply despite the normal fluctuations of wind.

Next steps

Checking and commissioning all of the different equipment and systems is about to commence, and will take at least four weeks. This testing will be carried out separately before the new power station is connected to the electricity network to supply Horizon Power customers in Hopetoun. Unfortunately there will be some power supply interruptions when the final changeover takes place. This is necessary to ensure the safety of our



▲ Hopetoun's second wind turbine has been installed.

workers, and we will try to keep any inconvenience to a minimum. Customers will receive further information about the dates and estimated duration of the outages.

Official Opening

The Minister for Energy, Hon Francis Logan MLA will officially open the new power station and wind turbine on 2 May 2007. A community event will be held, with more information on this event to be published in the next newsletter.

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Timetable

Date	Milestone
Mid February to mid-March	Commissioning the new wind-diesel system
Late March 2007	Connection to the Hopetoun electricity network
Official Opening	2 May 2007



▲ Overview of the new Hopetoun Low Load Diesel Power Station.