

Trustpower Gets Go-Ahead For SA Wind Farm

New Zealand renewable power generator and retailer TrustPower has announced a move into Australia with a \$200 million wind farm to be built near Snowtown, in South Australia.

The 42-turbine wind farm will have a capacity of 88 MW and is stage one of a potential 130-turbine project that has gained approval on the Hummocks and Burunga Ranges site.

The wind farm been granted a licence by South Australian energy regulator ESCOSA.

South Australian electricity transmission company ElectraNet has also been contracted to construct a 132 kV substation and a short transmission line which will connect the new wind farm into the existing ElectraNet state power grid. “This exciting new wind farm connection is ElectraNet’s sixth committed renewable energy development, with the company having already connected wind farms to the transmission network in the south-east, Yorke Peninsula and on Eyre Peninsula,” says ElectraNet Executive Manager Finance and Corporate Development Geoff Teitzel.

TrustPower says it has been looking at investing in wind generation in Australia for nearly four years but has been hampered by uncertainty surrounding Federal Government support for renewable energy generation and changes to generation licensing requirements.

TrustPower chief executive Keith Tempest says it is pleasing to be able to start the development after ESCOSA delayed approvals for new wind farms for almost a year between November 2004 and September 2005, while it studied the long-term impact on the State’s grid of the expansion of wind power.

The regulator has since approved another 340 MW of wind-powered electricity generation, taking the total licensed capacity to almost 800 MW – more than 20 per cent of the State’s total generating capacity.

TrustPower is still considering establishing a wind farm at Sellicks Hill, south of Adelaide.

[Source esaa news]