

Panel 1:

# Background to the Project

The Wind Farms and Landscape Values – National Assessment Methodology project is a joint project between the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) and Australian Wind Energy Association (Auswind)<sup>1</sup>. The objective of the project is to provide a sound and transparent framework for:

- identifying and assessing landscape values;
- assessing the potential impacts of wind farms on landscape values;
- site impact assessment and mitigation; and
- community consultation procedures.

Once approved the framework will be applied nationally by the wind industry.

## Siting of Wind Farms

There are many factors that influence the siting of wind farms and the form of development such as available wind, economic feasibility, heritage and environmental impact assessments, regulatory requirements and planning processes. This project is focused on **landscape values**, one component of heritage and environmental impact assessments. The identification of landscape values, and the impacts of wind farms on them, is an issue that has caused confusion and concern in the past, largely because of a lack of clear guidelines for research, consultation and planning.

This project will not be assessing landscape values in any particular area, nor will it focus on any specific development proposals.

<sup>1</sup>Funded by the Department of the Environment and Heritage under the Low Emission Technology and Abatement Program, this project builds on some initial work undertaken in 2004/05 by the ACNT and Auswind.

## Opportunities to Contribute

In February, March and early April of this year consultation will be held in 16 locations around Australia to meet and talk with communities, agencies, regulators and other stakeholders about their views. Information sessions such as today will provide the opportunity for community discussion and written feedback.

Round table discussions will involve community representatives in dialogue about key ideas and issues to contribute to the development of the framework. Please take the time to view the displays, talk to project representatives and pick up copies of information.

Should you require any further information please contact:

**Sarah Jones, Project Manager for Auswind and ACNT on:**  
**(03) 9670 2033, extension 4, or [sjones@auswind.org](mailto:sjones@auswind.org)**

## Outcomes

The final framework once approved by the Boards of ACNT and Auswind will guide policy and practice in the wind industry across Australia. It will be incorporated into the Auswind Best Practice Guidelines for Wind Farm Developments. The ACNT will consider its applicability to the siting of other energy infrastructure. This will give both developers and communities greater consistency and confidence in assessing landscape values and the potential impacts of wind