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MEDIA RELEASE

**Minister for Planning approves Planning Permit for the
Golden Plains Wind Farm**

Following the successful completion of the Environment Effects Statement, WestWind Energy welcomes the Victorian Planning Minister's decision to approve the Planning Permit for the Golden Plains Wind Farm.

The planning approval is a key milestone on the way towards the construction of Victoria's largest Wind Farm, which will generate an amount of electricity that is equal to 8 -10% of Victoria's electricity consumption.

The approval will enable the construction of up to 228 wind turbines south, east and west of Rokewood in the Golden Plains Shire. The project will create over 700 construction jobs in addition to over 70 direct operational jobs located in Victoria.

Importantly, using the most advanced wind energy technology, the Golden Plains Wind Farm will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 3 million tonnes annually and provide clean renewable energy to power the equivalent of more than 500, 000 Victorian homes.

The approval follows extensive Environment Effects Statement and Planning Permit processes including a full review and public hearing by an independent Inquiry Panel. The Inquiry Panel recommended the approval of the Wind Farm subject to the inclusion of a turbine free buffer zone to better protect the Victorian Brolga population. Overall their findings concluded that the project will have a net community benefit and will make a significant contribution towards the sustainable development of the State.

WestWind Energy Managing Director Tobi Geiger said *"The Minister's approval of the project is great news and paves the way for further valuable investment into the local region. This project will provide the equivalent annual power output of 1/3 of the recently closed Hazelwood coal fired power generator, while providing drought proof income to 40 host landholders. This, along with a substantial community benefits program, will ensure the local community benefits directly from this project."*

"We would also like to acknowledge the community members that took the time to make submissions to the planning panel and attended the hearing. We appreciate the time and effort they made so that the panel members could gain a better understanding of the project and the community that surrounds it."

ENDS

For more information about the Golden Plains Wind Farm please call Communications Manager, Erin Gray on (03) 5421 9999 or go to w-wind.com.au

**More detail on the project and the amendment process can be found on our website:
w-wind.com.au**