



## **WestWind Energy to partner with GE Renewable Energy to co-develop southern hemisphere's largest wind farm**

- WestWind has selected GE as preferred supplier to supply more than 200 units of its Cypress platform onshore wind turbines
- The Golden Plains project in Victoria will have a total capacity of over 1 GW, making it the largest wind farm in the southern hemisphere

**Melbourne, Australia, August 23 2019** - WestWind Energy Australia announced today that they will partner with GE Renewable Energy to co-develop the Golden Plains wind farm near Rokewood, Victoria. The project will utilise over 200 of GE's Cypress onshore wind turbines, creating the southern hemisphere's largest wind farm with a generating capacity of more than 1 GW.

The project is expected to commence construction in 2021, and will likely be completed in stages, with total capacity projected to be online in approximately 2025.

The Golden Plains project has been in development for over eight years, with support from local landowners and the community. As a locally based developer WestWind have committed to a substantial community benefit program and have recently established a local community reference group to ensure the local community benefits from the wind farm.

WestWind and GE will work closely together through the development phase to drive value for the project, including layout and grid connection optimization, building upon the strong existing relationship between the two companies.

Tobias Geiger, Managing Director of WestWind Energy Australia, was elated at the news: "WestWind Energy's roots are local – we are a team of just 16, all of whom are based in Victoria. We operate in a different way to the big utilities and developers – we work where we live and are part of the local fabric. This project will make a huge difference to the community, with many local jobs created during construction and operation as well as providing drought proof income to 40 host landholders."

Cr Owen Sharkey, Mayor of Golden Plains Shire, said, "We're thrilled to hear of the progress on Golden Plains Wind Farm. The project has been in development for a number of years over the course of which WestWind has built trust with the local community via collaborative consultation. We look forward to the benefits the project will bring to the region for many years to come."

David Lian, Sales Director GE Renewable Energy Onshore Wind in Australia, commented: "GE brought its full capability to bear to secure preferred status on Golden Plains. We listened closely to WestWind Energy to ensure the right value levers were targeted for both the project and WestWind as the developer."

Announced by GE Renewable Energy last year, the Cypress platform is the most powerful and efficient wind turbine in operation. It utilizes a two-piece blade design which enables blades to be manufactured at long lengths while improving logistics to drive costs down and offer more siting options, in locations that were previously inaccessible. The first Cypress project in Australia, Bango wind farm, will commence construction in New South Wales in September.

### **About WestWind Energy Australia**

WestWind Energy is a Victorian-based developer of renewable energy projects since 2004, drawing on the experience of the Germany based Westwind group of companies, who have developed over 450 MW of wind energy projects in Germany. This project will see WestWind's development experience in Australia exceed 1.6 GW of wind energy:

Mt. Mercer Wind Farm	130 MW	Owned by Meridian Energy (operational since 2014)
Moorabool Wind Farm	~360 MW	Owned by Goldwind Australia (under construction)
Lal Lal Wind Farm	~ 228 MW	Owned by Macquarie Capital, Northleaf Capital Partners and InfraRed Capital Partners (under construction)
Golden Plains Wind Farm	~ 1,127 – 1,230 MW	Fully owned by WestWind Energy

Find out more about WestWind Energy Australia at: [www.w-wind.com.au](http://www.w-wind.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/w-wind](https://www.facebook.com/w-wind)

### **About GE Renewable Energy**

GE Renewable Energy is a \$15 billion business which combines one of the broadest portfolios in the renewable energy industry to provide end-to-end solutions for our customers demanding reliable and affordable green power. Combining onshore and offshore wind, blades, hydro, storage, utility-scale solar, and grid solutions as well as hybrid renewables and digital services offerings, GE Renewable Energy has installed more than 400+ gigawatts of clean renewable energy and equipped more than 90 percent of utilities worldwide with its grid solutions. With nearly 40,000 employees present in more than 80 countries, GE Renewable Energy creates value for customers seeking to power the world with affordable, reliable and sustainable green electrons.

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