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Turbine arrival sparks final construction phase

Friday 25 February - Daylesford

Singapore-registered boat the SE Panthea left the port of Brake, Germany in early December carrying the two nacelles, two hubs and six blades. The ship arrived at Appleton Dock in Melbourne at 7.40pm on Tuesday and was unloaded Wednesday morning.

After customs clearance, the nacelles will undergo inspection and any required modifications to ensure compliance with Australian electrical standards.

Simon Holmes à Court, Chairman of Hepburn Wind, says "The arrival of the turbine components is a major milestone for the nearly 1600 members of Hepburn Wind. Some of our members have been waiting for six years for this day, and to know that the turbines have safely landed in Melbourne is a big relief."

The towers sections are nearing completion in Portland and various electrical equipment being assembled in Sunshine, Benalla and Adelaide. Holmes à Court adds "Hepburn Wind has spent more than \$2m with companies in regional Victoria and more than 3500 person hours have been spent preparing the site to date. Currently there are no turbine factories in Australia, however we expect that the growing demand for wind turbines will result in a growing proportion of local content for future projects."

The project will come together relatively quickly now with the turbines expected to be erected in the next two months. Electricity grid integration works are scheduled to take approximately two months following erection and the wind farm is expected to begin generating clean electricity into the local grid around the middle of the year.

Photos available at FLICKR

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hepburnwind/5475225222/>