



26 October 2006

Hepburn Shire Council
76 Vincent Street
Daylesford Vic 3460

Re. Hepburn Community Wind Park

I write to confirm Sustainability Victoria's support for the Hepburn Community Wind Park proposal at Leonard's Hill.

Future Energy Pty Ltd and the Hepburn Renewable Energy Association successfully applied to Sustainability Victoria for financial support of \$975,000 toward this project from the State Government's Renewable Energy Support Fund.

Sustainability Victoria believes that the Hepburn Community Wind Park would establish the first community-owned wind facility in Victoria and supports the projects because it will provide a powerful demonstration of a community taking practical action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through investing in a local renewable energy generator.

The potential benefits of community ownership of renewable energy projects such as the Hepburn Community Wind Park are:

- > increased community involvement with renewable energy development;
- > financial benefits available to local community investors; not just landowners and developers;
- > greater acceptance by rural communities of wind or other renewable power generation in their area.

As part of our evaluation of the funding submission, Sustainability Victoria conducted thorough due diligence and risk assessments covering the proponent and the project's technical and financial performance.

Sustainability Victoria confirmed that the Hepburn Community Wind Park would:

- > based on current cost estimates be financially viable and provided a real return to community investors;
- > produce renewable energy of about 14,000 MWh per year, which is sufficient for about 2000 homes;
- > reduce greenhouse gas emissions by between 13,500 tonnes and 15,100 tonnes per year;

Sustainability Victoria has been impressed by the open and professional approach of Future Energy and the Hepburn Renewable Energy Association and the strength of their co-operative working relationship

On the basis that the project proceeds, Sustainability Victoria will seek to promote the project with media releases, case studies and other events that would highlight the Hepburn and Daylesford community.

Yours sincerely,



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CC David Shapero, Future Energy