

## Largest Australian Wind Farm For Mt Gambier

A \$400 million wind farm, comprising 53 turbines on 80 m towers, will be built near Mount Gambier, South Australia, generating 159 MW of electricity by mid 2008.

The Lake Bonney Stage 2 wind farm is a joint venture development by Babcock and Brown Wind Partners (BBW), a specialist investment fund focused on the wind generation sector, and a subsidiary of National Power Partners.

The site is adjacent to BBW's existing Lake Bonney Stage 1 wind farm, completed in June 2005, comprising 46 turbines with a generating capacity of 80.5 MW. When Stage 2 is completed the Lake Bonney project will be the largest windfarm to be built in Australia and one of the largest in the world.

"Construction will commence immediately with the wind turbine supply to be undertaken by Vestas, a leading turbine manufacturer", BBW Chief Executive Officer, Peter O'Connell, said. "The balance of the plant will be constructed by Areva T&D and Civil & Allied Technical Constructions. The construction period is anticipated to be approximately 18 months." "The Lake Bonney wind farms are located on a world class wind site and are being built on a world class scale. Australia can be proud of this very significant contribution to the world's renewable energy generating capacity. Lake Bonney 2 is a significant addition to BBW's portfolio."

BBW Chairman, Peter Hofbauer, said the Lake Bonney windfarm highlights the huge potential



*The Lake Bonney Stage 1 wind farm, near Mt Gambier, was completed in June 2005 and has 46 turbines with a total generating capacity of 80.5 MW. When the Lake Bonney Stage 2 wind farm is commissioned in mid-2008, the combined farms will be the largest in Australia and one of the largest in the world.*

for investment in wind energy in Australia in a global market that, he said, is forecast to attract over US\$130 billion of investment by 2010. "We are very happy that the Lake Bonney project has progressed to this point and would welcome certainty regarding the renewable energy framework in Australia in order to progress many other potential opportunities

to contribute to Australia's pool of renewable energy sourced from wind", he said.

BBW's portfolio comprises an interest in or agreement to buy 23 wind farms on three continents that have a total installed capacity of approximately 1,150 MW. ■