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Government of
South Australia

News Release Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Minister for Finance
Minister for State Development
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy
Minister for Small Business

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ACT wind auction blows opportunities South Australia's way

South Australian-based Hornsdale Wind Farm has been selected as one of three Australian wind farms to deliver power to the ACT, under a 20-year deal that will see the development of a \$900 million wind farm in the State's Mid North.

Hornsdale, developed by Neoen and located north of Jamestown, has been selected to provide 100 megawatts (MW) of power to Canberra through the Australian Capital Territory's first wind energy "reverse auction".

Under the scheme, companies were invited to put forward bids to the ACT Government detailing how they could generate the greatest amount of renewable energy at the least price.

Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis said Hornsdale's successful bid has given the go-ahead for a \$900 million, 270 MW wind farm which will create 200-250 construction jobs and 10 operational jobs.

"I welcome the opportunity from the ACT Government and the jobs and investment it will provide South Australia," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"It is expected that construction on the new wind farm will begin towards the end of this year with commissioning in 2017.

"South Australia has established itself as the nation's leader in wind energy investment having attracted 41 per cent of the nation's installed capacity."

"This announcement reinforces our reputation as the country's foremost renewable energy state.

"This project will contribute to South Australia's \$10 billion low carbon investment target as well as the 50 per cent renewable energy targets, both to be achieved by 2025."

Mr Koutsantonis said the announcement is particularly welcome for the sector considering the uncertainty created by the Federal Government as a result of its review of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme.

"The Abbott Government needs to see just how important this sector is for investment and jobs creation," he said.

"Since 2003, there has been \$6 billion in investment in renewable energy with about \$2 billion, or 40 per cent, of this investment occurring in regional areas."

The ACT Government's 200 MW wind auction will deliver approximately 33 per cent of Canberra's electricity supply by 2017.