

Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project

this issue

Project Announcement - ENGIE **P.1**

Community Consultation Committee **P.2**

EPBC Referral Act and Met Masts **P.3**

The Wind Farm Development Process **P.4**

Hills of Gold Quick Facts

Up to **97** Wind Turbine Generators

Max blade tip height of **220 metres**
(above ground level)

Up to **193,900 households** powered
per year

Up to **1.2 million tonnes** Carbon
Dioxide saved per year

Up to **272** construction jobs

Up to **34** operational jobs

\$2,500 per turbine per year to go to
Community Enhancement Fund

Project Announcement – ENGIE Support

Wind Energy Partners is pleased to announce that global energy and services business ENGIE is supporting the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project.

ENGIE has 160,000 employees across 70 countries and has more than 103 gigawatts of installed power generation capacity, including 25% in renewables, such as wind and solar photovoltaic technologies.

In Australia, ENGIE has 1,200MW of low-carbon generation capacity and more than 800MW of renewable energy under development. The company also recently completed construction of the 119-Megawatt Willogoleche Wind Farm in South Australia.

ENGIE's Australian team is providing financial, technical and commercial support to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project, which is in line with ENGIE's ambition to lead the transition to a zero-carbon world.

For more information, please visit www.engie.com.au



ENGIE's Willogoleche Wind Farm, South Australia.

Community Consultative Committee

“When I first saw them, I was literally gob-smacked. They’re pretty impressive.”

Dennis, Bothwell community member on the wind turbine blade delivery event at Goldwind Australia’s Cattle Hill Wind Farm Project

Video link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy6DB6EBSZ0>

Since our last newsletter, the Community Consultative Committee (“CCC”) for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project has formed and two meetings have been held, the first on 12th June and the second on 18th September, 2019.

The meetings were held in the Nundle Library and attended by 13 community representatives from local councils, stakeholder groups and the Hills of Gold Project developer, Wind Energy Partners.



The CCC process is a structured community engagement activity required by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and designed to ensure stakeholder groups are kept informed of the status of State Significant Projects, and that feedback is provided on key issues that may arise during the development of projects.

A Project Update was presented by Wind Energy Partners at each meeting, and all community representatives present contributed to general discussion on matters such as the visual impact of the wind farm, the Community Enhancement Fund, noise, schedule of biodiversity surveys and methodologies, cultural heritage considerations and the wind farm development schedule and process.

The Minutes of the Meeting for June are available on the Hills of Gold Wind Farm website, located at the following link: www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/ccc. The Minutes of Meeting for September will also be posted at this location once finalised.

All members of the Nundle, Hanging Rock and broader community are encouraged to engage with CCC representatives as a resource for accessing up-to-date project information and opportunity to pose questions for representatives to raise during the meetings. This is in addition to other community consultation avenues, such as via the Hills of Gold website (www.hillsofgoldenergy.com) or via email at info@hillsofgoldenergy.com.



EPBC Act Referral Lodgement

Wind Energy Partners have lodged an Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act referral as part of the development of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project.

Proponents of wind farm projects are required to assess whether their action has the potential to impact Matters of National Environmental Significance or “MNES”. Examples of impacts to MNES include such things as National heritage places, threatened species and ecological communities migratory species, wetlands of international importance and others.

The biodiversity surveys currently underway and scheduled for 2019 and 2020 will allow the identification and survey of the following and other threatened species and ecological community within the project area and will play a pivotal role in the decision-making process to avoid or minimise impacts.

For more information, the EPBC Act referral is available for viewing and public comment at the following website link: <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/publicnoticesreferrals/>.

| MNES | Wind Farm Development Corridor | Transmission Line Investigation Area |
|---|--|---|
| Threatened Ecological Communities | | |
| White Box – Yellow Box – Blakelys Red Gum Grassy Woodland (critically endangered) | Significant impact unlikely | Potential for direct impact of the TEC mapped within the transmission line investigation area |
| Threatened flora species | | |
| Bluegrass (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Small Snake Orchid (endangered) | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint |
| Blackbutt Candlebark (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely due to limited habitat | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint |
| Fragrant Pepperbush (vulnerable) | Impact unlikely due to limited habitat | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint |
| Austral Toadflax (vulnerable) | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint |
| Threatened fauna species | | |
| Booroolong Frog (endangered) | Significant impact unlikely, as project unlikely to directly impact on hydrology in Peel River | Significant impact unlikely |
| Regent Honeyeater (critically endangered) | Significant impact unlikely | Potential to impact of suitable habitat within investigation area |
| Spotted-tailed Quoll (endangered) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Greater Glider (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Koala (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Grey-headed Flying-fox (vulnerable) | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Migratory species | | |
| Fork-tailed Swift | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint | Significant impact unlikely |
| White-throated Needletail | Potential for significant impact if identified within footprint | Significant impact unlikely |
| Satin Flycatcher | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |
| Rufous Fantail | Significant impact unlikely | Significant impact unlikely |



MET MASTS ON THE HILL

The Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project reached a significant milestone in the month of July, with the installation and commissioning of two new meteorological masts.

The masts have been constructed at strategic locations within the planned wind farm development corridor. Their purpose is to collect wind and other relevant meteorological information to further understand the localized climatic conditions at the site and assist in developing the most optimal wind turbine layout and configuration.

The masts are 110 metres above ground level in height and have specialized weather sensors and instrumentation located at specific heights, to collect and measure differences in wind and weather data at various elevations.

The two new masts are in addition to the existing met mast located to the north-east of the wind farm development corridor, and Light Detection and Ranging unit or “LIDAR”, which is currently in use to capture and collect additional wind data.

The masts have been constructed to the relevant Australian and International standards for meteorological masts, and notification has been given to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, local aerial agricultural associations and operators and aeronautical clubs.

The Wind Farm Development Process

Have a Question?

Feel Free to
Contact Us

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**SOMEVA
RENEWABLES**

The Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project is currently undergoing a design optimisation process. This process is a multi-disciplinary exercise that is performed under the planning framework and Federal, State and Local government requirements. It considers Technical, Environmental, Social and Economical variables, as shown in the below diagram.

The main goal of this exercise is to find the optimal project footprint for the wind farm and the transmission line route which avoids and/or minimises negative environmental and social impacts, and is compliant with the project's planning framework, relevant local, state and federal legislation and guidelines and landowner approvals.

As we continue to collect project information from the completion of biodiversity and cultural heritage surveys, community engagement processes, traffic/transport assessments, wind resource monitoring, wind turbine and transmission line design feasibility studies, landowner, etc. we will begin the process of optimising the final design of the project.



Additional Resources

- Department of Environment and Energy - www.environment.gov.au
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - www.dpie.nsw.gov.au
- NSW Wind Energy Framework and Guideline - www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy/Wind-Energy-Framework
- National Wind Farm Commissioner - www.nwfc.gov.au
- Clean Energy Council - www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au
- Australian Wind Alliance - www.windalliance.org.au
- Hills of Gold - www.hillsofgoldenergy.com
- Someva Renewables - www.somevarenewables.com