

Held at the Tamworth Regional Council Office, Nundle Library, Nundle

Members Present: David Ross (Chair); Jamie Chivers (Wind Energy Partners); Sandra Agudelo (Wind Energy Partners); Mike Stranger (Wind Energy Partners); John Krsulja (Hills of Gold Preservation Inc “HOGP”); Megan Trousdale (Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group “NBTMG”); Margaret Schofield; Ian Worley; Bruce Moore; Megan Carberry (Alternate Representative); Kay Burns (Tamworth Regional Council); Donna Ausling (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Christine Robinson (Upper Hunter Shire Council)

Apologies: Michael Chamberlain; Peter Schofield

Independent Chair: David Ross (DR)

Secretary: Corinne Culbert-Rafferty (CCR)

Agenda Items	Who to Present
1. Welcome & Apologies	David Ross
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests	David Ross & All
3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Site Visit & Correspondence b. Questions from HOGP Inc to Answers Provided by WEP c. Transport Route Assessment 	All
4. Previous Minutes	All
5. Correspondence	All
6. Update on Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project Update Presentation b. Group Discussion on Key Concerns and Responses to Previously Tabled Questions c. Indigenous Heritage Consultation 	All
7. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. EPBC Act Referral b. Community Division c. Feedback on Chairing 	All
8. Next Meeting – TBA	David Ross

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies Meeting commenced at 6:30pm.</p>	
2.	<p>Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests DR advised that he was paid a fee to chair the meeting as is CCR for taking the meeting minutes.</p>	
3.	<p>Business Arising from Previous Meeting</p> <p>a. Site Visit & Correspondence</p> <p>Site access to two CCC members had previously been denied due to host landowner requirements. All correspondence has been disclosed between relevant parties. Some CCC members requested written confirmation as to what the issues were relating to access being denied to them.</p> <p>The landowner denying access has since accepted everyone should have fair and equal access and permitted all CCC members access to the site upon request by WEP. In the interest of the group and project, site access has been granted by the landowner. The proposed dates for the site visit are 4, 5 or 11 February 2020. DR and MS to prepare an email to this effect ASAP.</p> <p>It was noted that the Barnard River Wild Dog Management Plan is being reviewed on 10 February 2020. Following that review, the new document will be submitted to WEP for their consideration.</p> <p>NBTMG tabled an undated email from them to WEP in this regard, which is annexed hereto and marked "A".</p> <p>b. Questions from HOGP Inc to Answers Provided by WEP</p> <p>50 questions were tabled from HOGP. All questions were answered by WEP. However, HOGP queried why it took longer than the required 28 days. Further, the date on the responses was in fact incorrect. WEP accepted that the date was a typo and amended the date accordingly. HOGP will review the responses by WEP and come back to them with further questions in due course.</p> <p>c. Transport Route Assessment</p> <p>The desktop and field transport studies were undertaken on 18 June 2019 by a specialist contractor. It was undertaken from Nundle to the site boundaries. A member believed that the document stated it was to 91 Gill Street in Nundle and didn't include up to the site boundary. However, JC noted that this was not the case. JC noted that, as presented in last September CCC meeting, transport assessment included Main Routes for blades, towers and remaining components from Newcastle port to Nundle including to the site boundary. Currently, as technology is under investigation, preferable route from Nundle to Site will be further investigated once technology is selected. Full assessment transport assessment will be</p>	<p>MS to provide letter as to why access was denied to some CCC members.</p> <p>DR & MS to prepare email relating to Site Visit ASAP.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>presented as soon as it is finalised. Consultation is to be around traffic and transport. Assessment is being made around traffic movements and exact streets and potential land clearing if required. The CCC wants to see the transport route assessment as well as upgrades and modifications that will be undertaken as required within the assessment. In August 2020 a preferred route will be identified and therefore consultation can take place around that point. A lot of detail for modifications and improvements, etc will be contained therein. Design and impact of vegetation will be contained within the flora and fauna studies. The movements of the logging trucks and existing traffic is to be considered and analysed within the study.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Previous Minutes There was a unanimous acceptance of the minutes from meeting # 2.</p> <p>It was brought up that the minutes from meeting # 1 need to be updated with respect to the reference to Tamworth's population. The population was stated as 200,000 however the actual LGA is 58,000. The scoping report should also reflect this.</p>	<p>WEP to update the website and scoping report to reflect to accurate population for Tamworth.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Correspondence David reminded CCC members that he had received a letter regarding concerns about his chairing of the meetings from an interested stakeholder outside of the region.</p> <p>A member tabled for inclusion in the minutes an email from DPIE to NBTMG dated 07.08.19, which is annexed hereto and marked "B", correspondence between NBTMG and Planning NSW dated 24.10.19 which is annexed hereto and marked "C" and a Media Release by Independent Planning Commission re Crookwell dated 25.10.19, which is annexed hereto and marked "D".</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update on Proposal a. Project Update Presentation</p> <p>MS proposed that the CCC's Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) Workshop could take place on one of the following dates: 25, 26 or 27 February 2020. DR accepted that, as the workshop would be an extraordinary meeting for the committee, alternate members can be included.</p> <p>It was proposed that a community letter be created by WEP. As a mail run or via café and/or post office. It was suggested a letter box drop to include a survey to acquire public input on Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Visual Assessment and the CEF. Some of the Councils observed that their residents may not know about the proposal and therefore, the Timor side of the range, as well as Willow Tree and Wallabadah be included in the consultation. It was suggested that correspondence can be sent from Murrurundi Post Office. Community feedback by letterbox drop.</p>	<p>WEP to create letter and survey for pre CEF Workshop letter box drop.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>Regarding the Local Ecologist Flora and Fauna Report that had previously been tabled at a CCC meeting, WEP explained that the report was shared with ARUP/Biosis for consideration in ongoing biodiversity surveys. A document that includes results of a cross-comparison of threatened flora and fauna species in the report versus the EPBC Act Referral was tabled and shared with CCC members.</p> <p>MS noted that a letter from Federal Government is yet to be received which will determine as to whether it will be a controlled action.</p> <p>The Spring Survey for flora and fauna has been undertaken by ARUP and Biosis. MS believed that it had been a successful trip with results expected in March. WEP will present survey preliminary results as a project update in a CCC meeting. A CCC member queried how environmental impact studies on flora and fauna could be conducted during one of the region's worst droughts. MC responded that the Biodiversity Report will assess the current conditions vs previous conditions.</p> <p>A member asked whether consideration has been given to assessing how existing land clearing nearby had impacted on flora and fauna populations? Should adjoining areas be assessed? How will neighbouring properties be assessed? It was queried why the site radius of 10km for the survey is taking place in front of turbines (west of the turbines). Should it not be assessed from 10km from the centre of the corridor? How is the assessment behind the corridor (east, south and north of the corridor) being assessed? WEP explained that the scope of the studies for biodiversity surveys, as explained in the EPBC referral document and during September CCC meeting, include target surveys in the wind farm development corridor and the transmission line investigation area. Also, a desktop analysis of vegetation community mapping has been performed for a 10 km buffer as part of the Preliminary Biodiversity and EPBC Act Significant Impact Assessment Report under evaluation.</p> <p>Landscape & Visual Assessment – currently preparing scope and engagements to be SEARs compliant. CCC member asked can anyone in the community affected, ask WEP to be included in a Visual Assessment? WEP confirmed that yes, they can.</p> <p>Noise Studies – currently preparing scope and engagements.</p> <p>The turbine suppliers are presently being consulted together.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation with TransGrid for connection is underway.</p> <p>b. Group Discussion on Key Concerns and Responses to Previously Tabled Questions</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>Job Data has been acquired on the White Rock and Sapphire project. This was detailed within the WEP presentation. A copy of which is annexed hereto and marked “E”. It was requested that these figures also be provided for the Liverpool Range Windfarm.</p> <p>NSW Dept of Energy has released its Electricity Strategy. Details can be found on www.energy.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>David invited everyone to have ten minutes to discuss with the person(s) next to them what has been discussed so far tonight so as to enable them to address any larger issues that need to be discussed through time and what WEP need to address or provide further detail on.</p> <p>Key issues that were identified by members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about when the wind farm is up and running, what are the longer-term binding commitments for management regarding fires and wild dogs i.e. vegetation management within distances of the turbines. • Could local community be consulted with respect to the long term operation of the proposal i.e. back burning, etc. with respect to Fire Management Plans. • State Electricity Strategy – with respect to grid management and the forthcoming decommissioning of Liddell, has the proposal have some association with this. JC noted that the proposal is considered in the Australian Electricity Market Operators Integrated System Plan. • The need for the community to heal (see below for discussion on this) • Community Enhancement Fund – instead of an s355 committee, consideration needs to be given to other structures eg trust or working group be established to ensure that the community is not left with assets that are impractical. • Residents Development Application was knocked back by Council due to “proposed” wind farm. There was concern from other landowners who may be considering development applications. It was suggested by WEP that consultation between WEP and any landowners looking to lodge applications be undertaken so that both can seek to manage any impacts for either proponent. • Lack of communication to the southern side (Crawney Pass) of the project. Owners around Crawney and Timor may be unaware or not have accurate communication. <p>c. Indigenous Heritage Consultation</p>	<p>MS to prepare figure for the Liverpool Range Windfarm.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>Cultural Heritage current deadlines are not achievable for some stakeholder groups. WEP are working towards having the community survey by the end of the year. It was noted that the HOGP information had been received. Visual montage to be addressed as to various impacts on lifestyle.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <p>a. EPBC Act Referral</p> <p>WEP presented a progress update. WEP explained that the development area remains as presented in the last CCC hold in September 2019 and as presented in the EPBC referral Act report. The layout from the wind turbine manufacturer is expected in March 2020. It was noted that not all properties and or plots were listed within the referral. It was further listed as not a bushfire prone area. There was disagreement between members of the CCC as to whether this is inaccurate. WEP explained that it has been in contact with the Department of Energy and Environment in regards of plots numbers and is currently following this up with the Department of Energy and Environment. It was noted the transmission line corridor has changed since the PEA.</p> <p>It was raised that there is an ongoing investigation with respect to alleged illegal land clearing. Will this affect the ecology as the area has been manipulated and changed? JC noted that the survey will deal with what is present and the alleged clearing took place without WEP’s knowledge of whether it was legal or illegal.</p> <p>A community member requested that reference be made in the Referral to Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve and Crawley Pass National Park as well as the impact on the south, east and north - not just the West.</p> <p>b. Community Division</p> <p>WEP want to understand the reasons for division and therefore want to be able to address concerns raised. Commitment from WEP next year is to educate, meet people, share information and have more face time presence within the community.</p> <p>General Business</p> <p>A discussion then took place on an array of issues.</p> <p>JC appreciated that there may be concerns within the community about the name of the project, “Hills of Gold Energy”. WEP is more than happy to change the name if it is upsetting the broader community and would appreciate feedback in this regard. A CCC member noted that there were 110 people at a community meeting who felt that the name was not popular. Another member of the CCC queried the accuracy of this information. This will be added to the survey.</p> <p>A member raised the issue of alternates being allowed to attend as observers. DR noted that, as a consequence of an action on him from the last meeting, he had approached DPIE who had advised that alternates could not attend meetings as observers.</p>	<p>WEP to make follow up with Department of Energy and Environment to make corresponding amendments within the EPBC Referral as outlined at this meeting.</p> <p>Amendments by ARUP to be shared with CCC</p> <p>WEP to add project name feedback to letter box drop survey.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>A member requested that a Fire Management Plan be created for windfarms. The local RFS to be consulted in doing so to establish a long-term management plan.</p> <p>Presented to meeting by a member was a letter by a JP dated 9 December 2019, a copy which is annexed hereto and marked F. The member observed that the JP held no personal opinion on the proposal and has analysed the signatures in the petition in comparison with the latest census figures. The member concluded that the majority of Nundle / Hanging Rock community members do not support a wind farm development in the area. A discussion then took place with other CCC members disagreeing with the petition results and observing that it was inaccurate for members to refer to what the community does or doesn't want.</p> <p>A member also noted that, in early 2018 in a meeting with a select group of community members, a WEP contractor observed said "If the community doesn't want it (the wind farm), it won't happen". The CCC member then asked if WEP will withdraw their application if Nundle have the numbers to oppose the development. JC said the letter would be considered while another CCC member questioned the numbers.</p> <p>Presented by a member was an article by Glen Innes Examiner dated 23 July 2019, a copy which is annexed hereto and marked G.</p> <p>DR notified the CCC that, as part of the CCC guidelines, he has a requirement to prepare an annual report. This will require holding a discussion in the new year to reflect on what key issues were covered in 2019 and, importantly, what issues the CCC members wish to cover in 2020.</p> <p>WEP noted that a Fire Management Plan will be part of the EIS as per Hazard/Risks section in the SEARs. Additionally, the local RFS to be consulted in doing so to establish a long-term management plan.</p> <p>c. Feedback on Chairing</p> <p>DR observed that he would appreciate feedback on his chairing in order for him to improve the experience that members have and ensure his independence. Feedback from some members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address things and move forward. • Within the first meeting, you didn't come across as an Independent Chair. It appeared that it was favoured towards WEP however this meeting everything has gone really well. • Meeting 2 no agenda followed. This meeting has been much better. • Minutes appear watered down and in favour of WEP. DR noted that, while the CCC guidelines give him the final say on what gets included in the minutes, he generally allows most edits to be included. 	<p>Fire Management Plan to be created for windfarms and firefighting. The local RFS to be consulted in doing so to establish a long-term management plan.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEP to correspond via David so everyone is privy to all information. 	
8.	<p>Next Meeting Date TBA Site Visit – early February 2020 (4, 5 or 11 February 2020) Community Enhancement Fund Workshop – end February 2020 (25, 26 or 27 February 2020)</p>	

Meeting Closed: 8.45pm

ACTIONS

Page No	Action No	Description	Date Raised	Response
2	5	DR to recommend replacement for Marcia Ajani to DPIE.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	Bruce Moore has now replaced Marcia.
3	8	MS to present actual job data on White Rock and Sapphire projects.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	Presented by WEP at Meeting 3 – see WEP Presentation, which is annexed hereto and marked “E”.
7	13	SA to create updated timetable in order to set future CCC meeting schedule.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	Presented by WEP at Meeting 3 – see WEP Presentation, which is annexed hereto and marked “E”.
2	18	MS to provide letter as to why access was denied to some members.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
2	19	DR & MS to prepare email relating to Site Visit ASAP.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
3	20	WEP to update the website and scoping report to reflect to accurate population for Tamworth.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
3	21	WEP to create letter and survey for pre CEF Workshop letter box drop	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
4	22	MS to prepare figure for the Liverpool Range Windfarm.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
6	23	WEP to make reference within the EPBC as outlined at this meeting.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
6	24	Amendments by ARUP to be shared with CCC	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	

6	25	WEP to add project name feedback to letter box drop survey.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	
6	26	Fire Management Plan to be created for windfarms and firefighting. The local RFS to be consulted in doing so to establish a long-term management plan.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	

Cc: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>; David.Ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au; Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>; Sandra Agudelo <Sandra.A@someva.com.au>; Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <Mike.Young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: CCC Stakeholder group representation on Site Visit

Good morning Michael,

I am sorry I did not have the chance to meet you at the last CCC meeting. I am writing to provide feedback from Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc regarding replacing me on the site visit planned next Monday, November 11 at 3pm.

At its meeting this morning Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc members motioned:

1. It is unacceptable to members that their elected President and DPIE chosen CCC member is not allowed to attend the CCC site visit, and they ask that Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd insists on their President's access in the interests of transparency, equal opportunity, and continuity of community consultation.

2. Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc requests a written explanation about why its President and DPIE chosen representative has been refused access to the CCC site visit.

This is a professional relationship between DPIE, Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd, and Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc. It has nothing to do with any personal tension between Mr Robinson and me.

If Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd does not insist on equality of access for the Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc President, it is complicit in denying the President access.

It would be expected that Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd would have a lease agreement at this stage and would not require permission to access the proposed project area for community consultation or other purposes.

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc members consider the CCC site visit is an important opportunity to understand, discuss, and communicate the proposal at future CCC and NBTMG Inc meetings and in the wider community. There may not be many other opportunities for site visits, if any. The NBTMG Inc President and DPIE chosen CCC member may be an active member of the CCC for years to come and without access to the site visit will be at a background knowledge disadvantage for the duration of the CCC.

This issue is bigger than Mr Robinson, it is about equality and approved access to all proposed developments.

This sets a precedent for the future operation of the CCC, and other CCCs in the State.

Who has the power here, the land holder, developer, or State Government? Can a landholder anywhere in the State, for any State Significant Development deny a CCC member approved access to a proposed project site?

If this proposal is approved Mr Robinson will have no control over who accesses the project area, whether he likes them or not.

Mr Robinson's behaviour is unprofessional and continues a 21-month pattern of bullying and intimidating community members who raise concerns and promote

discussion about the proposal. It is obstructing effective community consultation.

It is unacceptable that this issue has been discussed outside of CCC meetings. Other CCC members, other than Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc and Hills of Gold Preservation Inc members, would not know that John Krsulja and I have been denied access to the site visit. How would they feel about this? Would they question its transparency? Would they want the site visit to go ahead?

The CCC communication on this issue has been inconsistent. I received notification of the revised change of time of the site visit, but I did not receive an email distributed regarding details about what to bring etc to pass onto a nominated representative. All CCC members should receive all CCC correspondence.

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc would appreciate your response regarding its requests by 9am, Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

Yours sincerely,
Megan Trousdale
President
Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc

On 2 Oct 2019, at 11:05 am, Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au> wrote:

Good Morning John and Megan,

Further to the proposed site visit discussion in Hills of Gold CCC meeting last week, and as Jamie noted in his email response to you on the matter of the Jim Robinson complaint, are you please able to nominate two persons from the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc and Nundle Business and Tourism Group stakeholder groups respectively, to replace yourselves on the site visit planned for November/December? To echo Jamie's sentiments, we have attempted to reason with Jim on the benefit of yourselves attending the site visit, both as instrumental representatives of these stakeholder groups and as CCC members, and cannot provide any further explanation as to how Jim Robinson has come to his decision to decline access. Appointing representatives of your nominated stakeholder groups to attend in your stead, is the most obvious and accessible solution currently available to us under the circumstances.

We note also in the email from Jamie that we proposed a meeting with the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc to go through the EPBC Act referral in more



From: Mike Stranger mike.s@someva.com.au
Subject: RE: CCC Stakeholder group representation on Site Visit
Date: 6 November 2019 at 3:36 pm
To: Megan Trousdale megan@exchangestores.com.au
Cc: John Krsulja johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au, David.Ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au, Jamie Chivers jamie.c@someva.com.au, Sandra Agudelo Sandra.A@someva.com.au, Mike Young (DPE-DASP) Mike.Young@planning.nsw.gov.au, Nicole Brewer nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au, Anthony Ko Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Hi Megan

Thank you for your email and continued input on behalf of members in the Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc.

We understand and agree with the concerns of the Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group regarding ensuring CCC members are given equal opportunity and transparency in understanding the proposed wind farm and a site visit without all members of the CCC is not reflecting of best practise for transparent and equal opportunity in community consultation. We have sought to ensure access to all members of the CCC and commit to continue to seek this. Our rights to access the land change as the project moves into later stages of development and we respect the rights of all landowners during this period.

Based on this we are prepared to post-pone the site visit until it is possible for all members of the CCC to attend for equal opportunity and transparency. We are regretful that this affects the broader CCC's interest in visiting the proposed site and commit to seeking to resolve the concerned landowners view to allowing equal access for all CCC members.

We do not propose that any site visit replace the regularity of CCC meetings and we will be providing David Ross with a proposed December date for the next CCC and expect to continue discussing the Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc interest in the project at this opportunity.

I remain available to discuss any of the above as it suits you.

Regards,

Michael Stranger
+61 449 631 875



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Level 4, 17-19 Bridge St
Sydney NSW 2000

From: Megan Trousdale <megan@exchangestores.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2019 11:57 AM
To: Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>

From: **Anthony Ko** Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: Visual Assessment
Date: 7 August 2019 at 3:42 pm
To: **Megan Trousdale** megant@westnet.com.au



Hi Megan,

As discussed yesterday, the Wind Energy Guidelines recognises that there are circumstances where dwellings or key public viewpoints located above the 'Preliminary Assessment Tool line' (being 3 km for a turbine height of 220m) may require further consideration due to topography or other landscape features. It is expected that the EIS will assess the visual impacts to dwellings and other sensitive receivers located beyond 3 km from the nearest proposed turbine.

In preparing the environmental impact statement, the Applicant should consider the elements of the landscape important to the community, including public and private viewpoints. These areas of importance should be shared with the Applicant for inclusion in the Visual Baseline Study.

Kind Regards

Anthony Ko
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Energy and Resources

Planning and Assessment | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Megan Trousdale megant@westnet.com.au
Subject: Re: Land resumption clarification
Date: 24 October 2019 at 3:23 pm
To: Nicole Brewer nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au



Dear Nicole

Thank you for providing this information.

It will be reassuring for our members neighbouring the proposed project area and in along the proposed transmission lines route/s.

Best regards

Megan

On 24 Oct 2019, at 10:58 am, Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Megan,

A development application for State Significant Development requires consent in writing from landowners where project infrastructure is located. Wind Energy Partners has identified in its Scoping Report that the transmission line would form part of the Hills of Gold project and therefore it would need to provide landowners consent.

The land acquisition powers you refer to, are typically limited to activities where a public authority such as TransGrid, is the proponent. Where TransGrid is a proponent, it would seek to negotiate easements with landowners in the first instance and would typically use its land acquisition powers as a final resort.

Regards

Nicole

Nicole Brewer

A/ Director | Energy Assessments | Planning and Assessment
320 Pitt Street | GPO Box 39 | Sydney NSW 2001
T 02 9274 6374 E nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au

****My regular work days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**

<[image001.jpg](#)>

<[image002.jpg](#)><[image003.jpg](#)> <[image004.jpg](#)> Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)



CROOKWELL III WIND FARM REFUSED DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

25 October 2019

The state's Independent Planning Commission has refused development consent for a multi-million-dollar wind farm development in the NSW Southern Tablelands.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment referred the proposed 23-turbine Crookwell III Wind Farm to the Commission for determination in April this year amid community opposition.

Commissioners Peter Duncan (Panel chair), Professor Zada Lipman and Adrian Pilton were appointed to consider the \$120-million project, earmarked for a 1500-hectare site at Crookwell, 25km northwest of Goulburn.

The Commissioners met with Crookwell Development Pty Ltd (the Applicant), Department and Upper Lachlan Shire Council. They also held a public meeting in Crookwell to listen to the community's concerns which centred around visual and landscape impacts, potential human health impacts and remediation and rehabilitation.

After carefully considering all the evidence and weighing the community's views, the Commission has today (Friday 25 October 2019) determined to refuse this state significant development application.

In its Statement of Reasons for Decision, the Commission concluded that while the wind farm "would result in the public benefits of delivering renewable energy and reduce the reliance on fossil fuel consumption, there are significant residual issues", including:

- the visual impacts of the Project are unacceptable given the significant visual impacts on multiple residences and the proximity of turbines to non-associated residences
- the site is not suitable for the Project, because of its proximity to and the nature and scale of visual impacts on residences and the community
- the Project is inconsistent with objects (a), (b), (e) and (g) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and is therefore not in the public interest; and
- the Project does not satisfactorily address the objectives of the E3 – Environmental Management Zone of the Upper Lachlan LEP 2010 that require the protection of aesthetic values

The Commission also cited the Project's potential adverse cumulative impacts in an area where there are other wind farms already operating.

"The community raised a number of significant concerns about the visual impacts of the project on surrounding residences and the cumulative effect of wind farm projects with residences potentially able to view wind turbines in multiple viewing sectors," the Commission noted. "The community expressed concern that wind farm projects will transform the landscape from an attractive rural landscape towards an industrial landscape dominated by wind turbines."

.../2

The Department originally referred the SSD application to the former Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) in 2015 with a recommendation that the proposed wind farm be approved; however, after a holding a public meeting the PAC sent it back to the Department for further assessment.

The Department completed its final assessment report in April this year, which concluded the wind farm should be refused.

The Commission's Statement of Reasons for Decision is available here:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2015/02/crookwell-iii-windfarm>

Disclaimer

This media statement has been prepared by the Commission's media unit for general information only. It does not form part of the Commission's Statement of Reasons for Decision, and should not be read as part of, or as a substitute for, that Statement of Reasons for Decision.



**HILLS OF GOLD
ENERGY**

**Community Consultative Committee
December 2019**



**SOMEVA
RENEWABLES**

1. *Business arising from previous meeting*

- Site Visit
- WEP Responses to CCC Questions
- Community Enhancement Fund Workshop
- Job Data: White Rock and Sapphire Projects
- Local Ecologist Flora and Fauna Report
- Project Timetable

2. *Update on proposal*

a. *Project update presentation*

- Flora and Fauna Surveys
- Land scape and visual
- Noise and vibration

b. *Group discussion on key concerns and responses to previously tabled questions*

- Job Data: *White Rock and Sapphire Projects*
- WEP Responses to CCC Questions
- The EPBC Act Referral
- Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Information

1. Business arising from previous meeting



SOMEVA
RENEWABLES

Action	Comment
Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Site visit discussed in September CCC meeting and agreed via email for November;○ Postponed due to access issues at the time for CCC members;○ Access issues now resolved for all CCC members;○ Proposed new dates are: 4, 5 or 11 February 2020.
<i>WEP Responses to CCC Questions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Information provided in Project Update.
Community Enhancement Fund Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Proposed by WEP in September CCC meeting;○ Dates of 25, 26 or 27 February 2020 proposed via David Ross email on 11 November 2019.
Job Data - White Rock and Sapphire Wind Farm Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Information provided in Project Update.
Project Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Requested by members in September CCC meeting;○ Shared with CCC members via David Ross email on November 25, 2019;○ Published to HoG website.

1. Business arising from previous meeting



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Action	Comment
Local Ecologist Flora and Fauna Report	The table report on potential species and survey methodology has been shared with ARUP/Biosis for consideration in ongoing biodiversity surveys. <i>The mark to the table of species was shared with CCC members by the chair November 11,2019.</i> Includes results of a cross-comparison of threatened flora and fauna species in the report versus the species list in the EPBC Act Referral.

2. Update on proposal

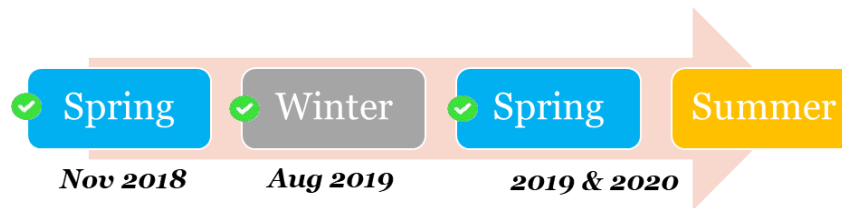


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a. Project update

○ Flora and Fauna Surveys

- A second spring survey was performed week of Nov 18 to 22
- Summer target species surveys will continue as planned in early 2020.



○ Landscape and visual assessment

- Preparing scope and engagements to be SEARs compliant
- Landscape and Visual Rep Viewpoints with public access to be determined with the CCC

○ Noise Studies

- Preparing scope and engagements
- Background noise monitoring locations to be established and consultation with residents considered representative of groups of housing or close to the project boundary



2. Update on proposal

a. Project update

- **Progress with turbine suppliers on layout and suitable turbines**
- **Ongoing consultation with Transgrid**
- **Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program**
- **Ongoing Social and Environmental Assessment of Transmission Line Route**



2. Update on proposal

b. Group discussion on key concerns and responses to previously tabled questions

○ **Job Data: White Rock and Sapphire Projects**

- White Rock (Stage 1), 175MW:
Construction – 300*
Operation – 10-15*
- Sapphire, 270MW:
Construction – 150**

○ **WEP Responses to CCC Questions**

- Requested by members in September CCC meeting;
- Shared with CCC members via David Ross email on November 25, 2019;
- Published to HoG website.



2. Update on proposal

b. Other information regarding jobs and investment

- **The renewable industry has employed over 8,000 direct construction jobs mostly in regional and rural Australia since 2016**
- **Additional indirect jobs as a result of construction were estimated to be 1,500 jobs for a 336MW in South Australia or 7 x the direct jobs as a result of local spending in café, services, accommodation etc.**
- **A study assessed that a construction workforce for 50MW would provide \$1.2m in local spending.**
- **Projects due to start construction or financially committed are expected to create another 16,650 direct construction jobs according to the Clean Energy Council.**
- **An updated National Job Survey is being undertaken to measure employment across the clean energy sector with results due in early 2020.**

2. Update on proposal



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In November NSW Dept of Energy released its Electricity Strategy identifying:

- *Traditional generators are getting older and closing*
- *Firmed renewables are the cheapest type of new reliable generation*
- *The grid is getting overcrowded*
- *Coordination of Generation and Transmission*
- *Seeking to reduce risk for investors and engage communities by rolling out Renewable Energy Zones*
- *Encouraging investment in new generators and a modern grid*
- *The policy is comprehensive and covers a range of other electricity policies and initiatives to benefit electricity consumers.*

Policy summary information is available at:

<https://energy.nsw.gov.au/>

2. Update on proposal



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b. Group discussion on key concerns and responses to previously tabled questions

○ The EPBC Act Referral

.... “ The EPBC Act Referral: There are concerns by members of the community to items not presented by WEP and changes made to the potential development area”...

- *WEP open to hear and discuss community concerns.*
- *Development area:*
 - *WEP presented the last CCC a project progress update with the development area.*
 - *As of today, development area remains as presented in the last CCC and as presented in the EPBC Act Referral.*
 - *As per timetable shared with the community, WEP is expecting a Wind turbine Layout from Wind Turbine Manufactures in March 2020.*
 - *A corresponding update will be made to CCC members in accordance with this results.*

○ Cultural Heritage Information

....”*The concerns raised by community members regarding timeline and community consultation required.* “

- *WEP is open to suggestions on the most suitable approach for how to gain local community knowledge and inform ongoing heritage survey work.*
- *Ideally, community feedback is received during planning period, so that enough resources are allocated and ensure detailed field archaeological survey work incorporate and best benefit from the local knowledge gained during the consultation process.*



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Questions and Discussion



9th December 2019

To whom it may concern,

I confirm that I have analysed the signatures of the Nundle and Hanging Rock residents/landholders/voters in the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc petition in comparison with the latest Australian Census figures.

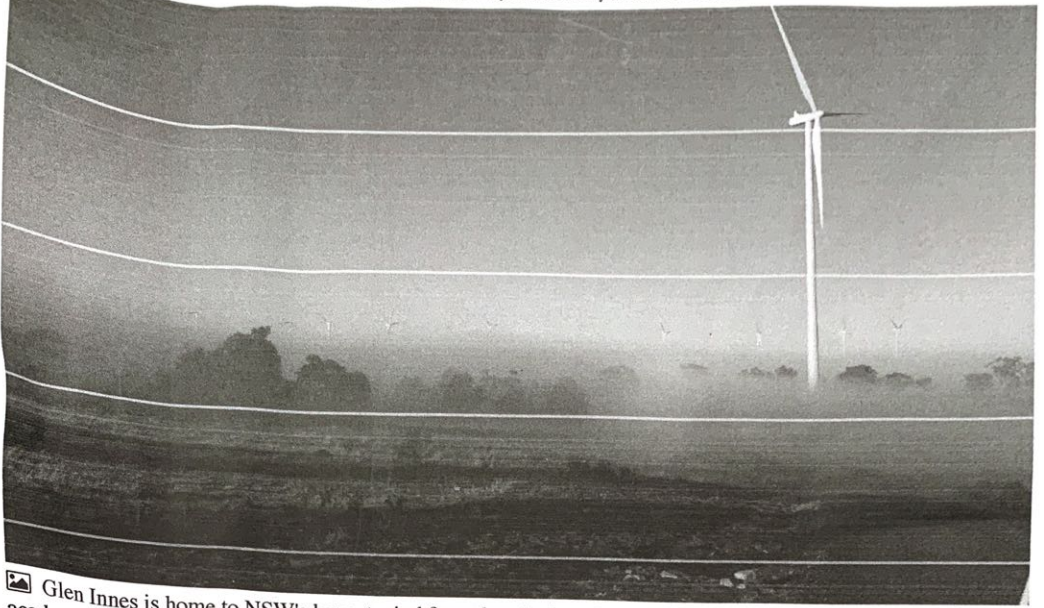
It is my conclusion that the majority of Nundle and Hanging Rock residents/landholders/voters do not support a wind farm development in the Nundle/Hanging Rock area.


Furthermore, I make this declaration without holding a personal opinion or position with regards to the proposed wind farm development in the Nundle/Hanging Rock NSW area.

Your sincerely,

Tracy Rodgers

Tracy Rodgers
JP for NSW 198113



 Glen Innes is home to NSW's largest wind farm, but the benefits have mainly gone to a few, say a pair of academics.

The benefits of NSW's largest wind power plant have been "privatised" into the hands of a few local landholders according to a pair of Sydney academics studying Glen Innes' experience with the renewable energy boom.

Linda Connor and Rebecca Pearse, both of the University of Sydney, visited Glen Innes last week to study the economic and social consequences of the enormous \$400 million White Rock and \$550 million Sapphire energy projects, the latter the largest in the state.

"(The benefits are) quite restricted in some ways - obviously people who've got land are beneficiaries," said Dr Connor.

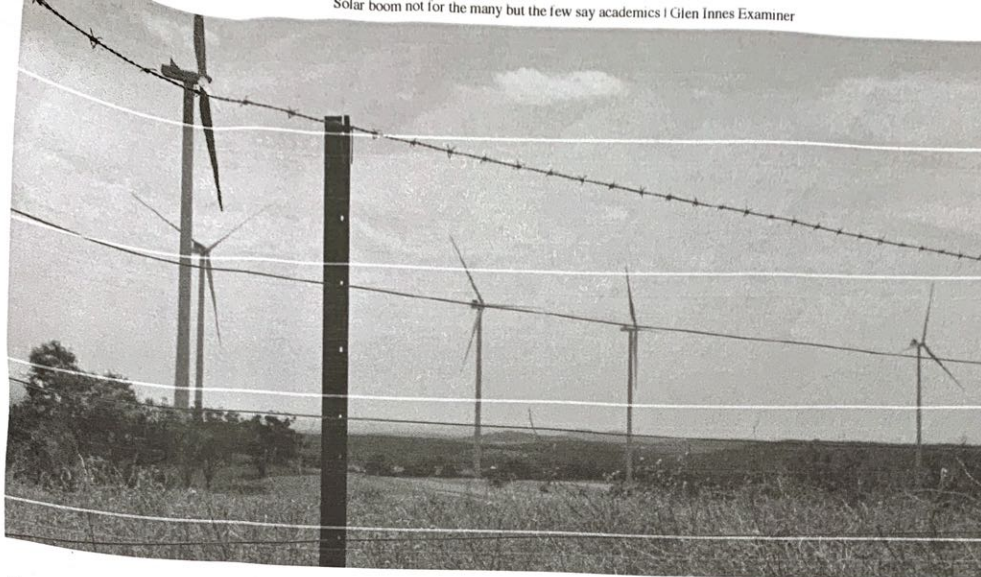
"From what we've heard, people would like to be more active participants in getting cheaper electricity for example - which isn't happening as a result of these projects, (the boom is) not having that impact at all."

Doctor Pearse pointed out the irony that the town faces a relatively high unemployment rate despite nearly a billion dollars' investment ending just last year.

"I can see what is effectively a power station on the ridge line - the electricity grid has arrived in this region in a new way - but it's not translating to cheaper power," said Dr Pearse.

But they said there would be many more chances to get it right, and were hopeful that the renewable sector might actually listen to the concerns of locals contained in their report. They essentially have little choice.

"What can make or break some projects in terms of their viability is their social licence to operate - the extent to which the local community is happy for them to arrive," said Dr Pearse.



As a result, she said the solar and wind industry is much more willing to develop "its techniques of corporate social responsibility" than the mining industry, which she had previously studied in the Upper Hunter and Liverpool Plains.

Wind-funded community grants and a commitment by the companies to hire and contract locally are voluntary, for example. She said they also made efforts to consult with community members in a genuine way.

Dr Connor speculated it's about political power; by comparison the mining industry is "much more powerful", particularly in NSW where it is the biggest export industry.

"I think that the renewable energy companies are being much more careful to take account of objections - they really don't want bad publicity and I guess you can see that from the point of view of being a new industry you want to have a good social licence to operate."

But up to this point, they said, much of the community they had talked to, including at a GLENRAC event organised last week, had seen modest long-term benefit from the multi-billion dollar projects, with by far the biggest benefits outside the construction phase flowing to landowners, with benefits "individualised" and "privatised".

Linda Connor said she thinks the average resident of Glen Innes should turn to their state and federal member for action.

"They're voters!"

"Obviously if energy is a priority then probably thinking about what the policies are of the different parties they're voting for.

"Even getting a decent energy policy that was upfront (would be a good start)."

They hope to soon meet with the Australia Institute, which is helping fund the research. They hope to win further funding to help develop a report with policy recommendations for future renewable development.

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- [TWEET](#)

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture, intangible culture, and natural heritage. The deliberate act of keeping cultural heritage from the present for the future is known as Preservation or Conservation, though these terms may have more specific or technical meaning in the same contexts in the other dialect. Cultural heritage is unique and irreplaceable, which places the responsibility of preservation on the current generation.

In 2018 Hills of Gold Preservation Inc communicated to DPIE that the following sites are areas of cultural and heritage significance to its members:

- Intersection of Lindsay's Gap Rd and Nundle Rd;
- Nundle Golf Club;
- Nundle Bowling Club;
- Nundle Sport and Recreation Ground;
- Nundle Cemetery;
- Nundle Courthouse Museum (State heritage listed);
- Teamsters Rest, Crawney Rd E2 corridor (Nundle's only accessible biodiversity pocket);
- Crawney Pass National Park;
- DAG Sheep Station;
- Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve;
- Goonoo Goonoo Glasshouse Restaurant, New England Highway;
- Morrisons Gap Rd (cleared area inside Robinsons boundary provides most consistent and strongest telecommunications access. It is imperative for safety that this site be accessible).

In addition, HOGPI members would like to add:

- Hanging Rock outcrop;
- Yellow Rock
- Great Dividing Range ridgeline from Hanging Rock to Crawney Mountain;
- Sheba Dams;
- Jenkins Street;
- Oakenville Street.
- Devils Elbow

HOGPI would like the opportunity to take this list back to its members for further input, given 12 months additional knowledge of the proposed project.

John Krsulja

“The Historic Wombramurra Station was in the hands of a group named Armitage & Company up until 1847/1848, stretching from Crawney Pass down the eastern side of the Peel River to Nundle and back towards Hanging Rock” .

- Wombramurra Homestead
- Wombramurra Sale yards
- Wombramurra Station
- Wombramurra Woolshed Complex
- Wombramurra Creek

- Peel River, Barnard River & Isis River
- Head of Peel Valley & Road access
- Trigonometric Station
- Ben Halls Nature Reserve access via Morrisons Gap Road for: Farrels Trail, Ben Halls Trail, B Trail & Firths Trail.
- Ben Halls Nature Reserve access via Turnip Paddock Trail for access to Treefern Trail, Berry Trail, Ben Halls Trail & Nissan Hut Trail.
- Stockyard Creek & Brayshaws Creek, BH NR

- Nundle Crown/Public Reserve, near Nundle Cemetary
- National Heritage Trail, Crawney Road & Crawney Pass
- “Hills Of Gold” (Reference for location & tourism)
- Nundle Gold Rush
- Nundle Gold Mines
- Go For Gold Chinese Easter Festival, Great Nundle Dog Race, Nundle Rocks, Country at The DAG & DAG Songwriters Retreat

Non Indigenous Cultural Heritage

03.12.19 – Jamie Chivers to John Krsulja

From: Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>
To: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>; David Ross - VUCA Strategist <david.ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au>
Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>; Sandra Agudelo <sandra.a@someva.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 December 2019, 08:16:14 am AEST
Subject: RE: Hills of Gold CCC: Information for the CCC and seeking information from the CCC

Hi John,

Thank you for your email and raising these concerns with us on the time allocation for the community information gathering exercise for non-indigenous heritage values and sites in the Hanging Rock, Nundle and adjacent communities. Please be assured that we do understand the importance of this issue to the local community, and that our commitment to thorough community consultation on the issue is demonstrated in our suggestion of the distribution of a feedback form via CCC members and proactivity in commencing the community feedback exercise without waiting for the next CCC meeting or commencing to the next stage of the studies.

As communicated in the updated project timeline shared with the CCC, and in line with our planned EIA submission at the end of 2020, presentation of the cultural heritage survey information is scheduled for August 2020. Whilst we have completed preliminary cultural heritage surveys for the wind farm and transmission line development corridors (presented in the September CCC meeting), we will commence planning for the next phase of our cultural heritage surveys with ARUP and Kelleher Nightingale Consulting in 2020. Ideally, community feedback is received during this planning period, so that sufficient resources are allocated and ensure detailed field archaeological survey work incorporate and best benefit from the local knowledge gained during the consultation process. From the initial discussion in the September CCC meeting, a number of specific sites were mentioned by local residents Theresa Ether, Margaret Schofield and Ian Worley, and it was the intent of capturing this information on the form that was sent. It has always been our intent to discuss progress on this at the December CCC meeting, and we are open to suggestions on the most suitable approach for how to gain local community knowledge and inform ongoing heritage survey work.

We look forward to receiving feedback and discussing at the next CCC.

Regards,

Jamie Chivers

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Sydney NSW 2000

01.11.19 – David Ross to John Krsulja

David Ross - VUCA Strategist <david.ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au>

To: John Krsulja

1 Dec at 1:08 pm

Hi John

thanks very much for that email. Maybe we can get WEP to talk to this matter at the CCC meeting as well as share *how* they have been consulting on indigenous issues (ie has consultation entailed solely emailing the CCC? Or have they been having lengthy discussions with relevant groups?). That would be interesting to find out.

regards
David

29.11.19 – John Krsulja to David Ross & Jamie Chivers

From: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 29 November 2019 12:10 PM

To: David Ross - VUCA Strategist <david.ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au>; Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Hills of Gold CCC: Information for the CCC and seeking information from the CCC

To David and Jamie.

At our CCC Meeting on September 18th the CCC members observed that there were non-indigenous cultural heritage sites in the project development area, which were not listed in the Tamworth Local Environmental Plan, or on publicly available cultural heritage databases.

In response to the request from WEP to "please briefly fill out the attached sheet, providing information on the non-indigenous cultural heritage sites you would like to see included in their cultural heritage assessments and to provide feedback by the end of November", community members have again expressed disappointment that proper and thorough community consultation on such an important community issue has not taken place.

Members of the community would like to express concern they have not had the necessary time to discuss or provide additional data, research and local knowledge available within this timeline and believe this very sensitive issue should be discussed at the next CCC meeting on December 10th and a proper forum of Community Consultation be decided upon, one that WEP should then conduct to all members of the community.

On behalf of community members, I hope we have an understanding of the importance of this issue and time needed to consult with regards to this matter, and look forward to further discussions at the CCC meeting on December 10th.

Regards John Krsulja.

01.11.19 – David Ross to CCC Members

On Friday, 1 November 2019, 01:06:39 pm AEST, David Ross - VUCA Strategist <david.ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au> wrote:

Dear All

WEP have asked me to provide the following to you on the:

- Biodiversity referral (for your information); and
- Non Indigenous cultural heritage (for your input).

Biodiversity Referral

As per WEP's commitment to notify the CCC when the Hills of Gold EPBC Act referral is listed online for public exhibition, please be advised that WEP have today received notification from the DoEE of the referrals' posting on their website. The referral number is 2019/8535 and website link is here: <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/publicnoticesreferrals/>

Please let WEP know if there are any issues accessing the referral.

Non Indigenous Cultural Heritage

WEP are in the process of planning for the next phases of their cultural heritage survey work with their consultants, ARUP, due to commence in January 2020.

If you recall from our September 18th CCC, CCC members observed that there were non-indigenous cultural heritage sites in the project development area, which were not listed in the Tamworth Local Environmental Plan, or on publicly available cultural heritage databases. WEP wish to include these sites in the scope of their surveys, regardless of whether they were officially recognised as a cultural heritage site of significance.

Rather than wait until the next CCC meeting, WEP would like to commence the consultation process sooner rather than later, and discuss progress at the next CCC.

With that in mind, WEP would appreciate it - if you are interested - to please briefly fill out the attached sheet, providing information on the non-indigenous cultural heritage sites you would like to see included in their cultural heritage assessments? **If you wish to provide this feedback, could you please do so by the end of November?**

Thanks very much for your time

regards

David

Chair, Hills of Gold CCC

Site Visit and Questions/Answers

02.12.19 - Mike Stranger to John Krsulja

Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>

To: John Krsulja

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP), Nicole Brewer, Anthony Ko, David.Ross@phoenixstrategic.com.au, Sandra Agudelo and 1 more...

2 Dec at 11:07 am

Hi John,

Further to the below from Jamie, just a short email to notify you that the attached responses have been published on the Hills of Gold website, see here: <https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/ccc>.

Please feel free to share this email and my contact details with members of the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc, in the event they wish to contact me directly.

We look forward to discussing these responses with you in the CCC meeting next week.

Best Regards,

Michael Stranger

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Level 4, 17-19 Bridge St Sydney NSW 2000

19.11.19 – Jamie Chivers to John Krsulja

From: Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2019 4:04 PM

To: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>; Sandra Agudelo <Sandra.A@someva.com.au>

Subject: Response to Hills of Gold Preservation Inc.

Hi John

Thank you for your patience while we compiled responses to your questions.

Please find attached responses to all 49 questions with supporting information.

To ensure transparency and equal access to information we will publish your questions and our responses on our website.

Thank you for your input for which we will be able to ensure concerns are more adequately detailed during the studies currently or planned to be completed.

Have a good week.

Regards,

Jamie Chivers

+61 423 336 345

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Level 4, 17-19 Bridge St

06.11.19 – Jamie Chivers to John Krsulja

From: Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>

To: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>; Sandra Agudelo <sandra.a@someva.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 03:46:14 pm AEST

Subject: RE: Jim Robinson

Hi John

Thank you for your email and continued input on behalf of members in the Hills of Gold Preservation inc.

We understand and agree with the concerns of the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc regarding ensuring CCC members are given genuine opportunity for input and transparency in understanding the proposed wind farm and a site visit without all members of the CCC is not reflected of best practise for transparent and equal opportunity in community consultation. We have sought to ensure access to all members of the CCC and commit to continue to seek this. Our rights to access the land change as the project moves into later stages of development and we respect the rights of all landowners during this period.

As advised to Megan Trousdale and following your suggestion we are prepared to post-pone the site visit until it is possible for all members of the CCC to attend for equal opportunity and transparency. We are regretful that this affects the broader CCC's interest in visiting the proposed site and commit to seeking to resolve the concerned landowners view to allowing equal access for all CCC members.

We do not propose that any site visit replace the regularity of CCC meetings and we will be providing David Ross with a proposed December date for the next CCC and expect to continue discussing the Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc interest in the project at this opportunity.

We appreciate the list of questions submitted and had previously offered to address the HOGP Inc directly but note your concerns raised and understand this would not be your preferred means for addressing the list of questions or providing consultation around the EPBC Application. The HOGP Inc concerns are valid and as part of our commitment to ensure the ongoing assessment takes these into account we will ensure they are addressed

as part of our submission to the Department of Planning and Industry and Environment along with detailed assessments responding to the SEARs once the project design has evolved to current surveys.

There are questions within your 49 that can be responded to earlier and we will respond to those questions by the 15th of November.

I remain available to discuss any of the above as suits you.

Regards,

Jamie Chivers

+61 423 336 345

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Level 4, 17-19 Bridge St

Sydney NSW 2000

03.11.19 – John Krsulja to Jamie Chivers

From: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Sunday, 3 November 2019 2:00 PM

To: Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>; Sandra Agudelo <Sandra.A@someva.com.au>

Subject: Re: Jim Robinson

Hi Jamie,

Hills Of Gold Preservation Inc held a General meeting on Thursday 31st October to discuss community concerns, including your email and the matters included, hence the delayed response.

The HOGP General Meeting was extremely well attended and our members wish to express their deep disappointment in their Stakeholders group elected President been denied access to the site visit to be held on Monday 11th November.

I am not in a position to comment or nominate another representative on behalf of the Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group, and as the NBTMG have a General Meeting on Monday 4th November, I'm sure the denied access of their President will also be discussed at that meeting.

The importance of meaningful community consultation is to demonstrate transparency and to ensure opportunities for genuine input by all members of the community.

HOGP members believe as Wind Energy Partners are the proponents of this proposed development they are a true representation of the development and not the host land holders, furthermore access to land should have been agreed upon before lodging development applications and by denying access to the groups President, the members feel you are denying access to the entire group.

Hills Of Gold Preservation Inc members wish to convey the following:

- HOGP will not select another representative to replace the DPIE elected CCC member and HOGP elected President John Krsulja.
- HOGP members ask for a valid reason, in writing, to be given as to why their elected representative has been denied access to the CCC site visit.
- HOGP members are left to believe that if in fact, it is the majority host landholder who determines who can and can't attend the site visit, does this set a precedent for future activities of the CCC? What else will John Krsulja and Megan Trousdale be excluded from?
- HOGP members feel as not all CCC members can be provided with safe access to the site visit, members feel the site visit should be postponed and the denied access by CCC Stakeholder Group representatives be discussed at the next Q4 CCC meeting for all members to decide action to be taken.

As per CCC Guidelines: 4.2 Meeting Procedures

'The Committee may decide to undertake regular site visits of the project in conjunction with it's meetings, or at other convenient times'.

- Should the site visit continue without all representatives, we look forward to the December CCC meeting and seek to ensure the site visit will not be classed as the Q4 CCC meeting.

As per CCC Guidelines: 5 Responsibilities of Proponent

- HOGP Inc members would like to express their disappointment that 'not one' of the 49 Questions tabled on the communities behalf have been addressed or answered within the 28 days.

With regard to WEP's invitation to hold a workshop/information session to provide further detail on the EPBC Act Referral.

- HOGP members felt that such an important issue would be better served if ALL members of the Nundle/Hanging Rock community were invited to a Town Hall meeting that offered the chance for discussion.
- HOGP would like to inform WEP that some of our HOGP members wish to remain anonymous due to fear of intimidation.

- As the EPBC Act Referral has been lodged, HOGP members also questioned if the timing was inappropriate or obsolete, given community members have had no chance for genuine input, or to provide valuable input and local knowledge to WEP submission.

Regards John Krsulja

11.10.19 –Jamie Chivers to John Krsulja

On Friday, 11 October 2019, 09:58:00 am AEST, Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au> wrote:

Hi John,

Further to my response we would like to update you on the action taken from our side with respect to your complaint. We wish to make it clear that WEP do not condone threatening or offensive behavior and seek to ensure engagement can be done in a calm and constructive way. The input received from Hills of Gold Preservation Inc is valuable feedback and we appreciate the effort that will ensure a robust assessment during the planning phase. WEP have taken the following action to your complaint and input:

- We have taken further action and made contact with participating landowners in the project and provided advice on how to communicate concerns they have and reiterated that any communications relating to wind farm matters should be directed to WEP in the first instance or through members of the CCC who can represent their views at regular meetings.
- Regarding the site visit we have requested that you nominate replacement representatives from the Nundle Business Tourism Group and Hills of Gold Preservation Inc to attend the site visit in order to ensure these stakeholder groups are represented.
- We have also proposed a workshop/information session be held with Hills of Gold Preservation Inc, to provide further detail on the EPBC Act Referral, upcoming biodiversity surveys and also to provide a reconciliation of the threatened fauna species list that was presented in the CCC with what is listed in the EPBC Referral.

Please advise if you wish for us to take any further action with regards to your complaint, and we will endeavour to assist where we can.

More generally, we can provide the following information relevant to your questions presented in the CCC meeting last week and the project:

- We have compiled the list of 49 questions, presented by yourself on behalf of the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc in last week's CCC Meeting, into a community correspondence register and commenced work on responding to these. As you know from last week's meeting, we will

not be in a position to provide the specifics that a lot of these questions seek, however we will attempt to provide information where we can and at a minimum when we anticipate having some of the answers;

- An updated newsletter was released which you should have received both hard and soft copies of;
- We have received confirmation that the EPBC Act Referral lodgement has been received by the DoEE, however they have advised there is a queue of submissions requiring validation by their team and they cannot provide a date for when it will be publicly available. As per our commitment to the CCC and community, we will however provide notification to the CCC when this occurs.

Should you have any further queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Jamie Chivers

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24.09.19 –Jamie Chivers to John Krsulja

From: Jamie Chivers

Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 12:28 PM

To: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Mike Stranger <mike.s@someva.com.au>

Subject: RE: Jim Robinson

Hi John

Thank you for bringing this phone call to my attention and we take note you are choosing to register your compliant with us.

As you correctly state and the minutes record, it was agreed by the CCC that we investigate a site visit for CCC members. We progressed to organise this with Jim Robinson, who's land is instrumental in an effective site visit and made it clear to Jim that this was a request of the broader CCC and certainly no one in particular. I'm sorry I can't provide more information on how Jim came to his views but would be willing to organise a call to discuss this with him if you would like further action taken. My understanding is there are personal disagreements between you and Jim and that as a result Jim is unwilling to allow access to his land. However as part of our commitment to organising a site visit we would like to work with you to ensure that a representative from the Hills of Gold Preservation Society can join and this will be done in a manner that ensures safe site visit for all and will the required permissions from landowners. If there is a member you could recommend please let me know and I will progress the required permissions.

With regard to the CCC we would like to thank you for your active and considered contribution. In order to better provide detailed information we would like to offer a workshop/information session with interested members of the Hills of Gold Preservation Society specific to discussing the EPBC Assessment which will shortly be made public. I hope this is an initiative that supports the interest of your group and can ensure that we are considering your interests and concerns in our biodiversity surveys and subsequent design.

Please feel free to contact me via email or on my mobile if you would like any further action to be taken.

Regards,

Jamie Chivers

+61 423 336 345

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Someva Pty Limited

Level 4, 17-19 Bridge St

Sydney NSW 2000

23.09.19 – John Krsulja to Jamie Chivers

From: John Krsulja <johnkrsulja@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 September 2019 10:46 AM

To: Jamie Chivers <jamie.c@someva.com.au>

Cc: Mike Young (DPE-DASP) <mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Brewer <nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Ko <anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Fw: Jim Robinson

Hi Jamie.

I am writing to make a complaint against the potential majority turbine land host Jim Robinson.

As you are aware I am part of the Community Consultation Committee as a representative of the stakeholder group Hills Of Gold Preservation Inc (HOGP)

Representing well over 100 financial members which in itself comes with tremendous responsibility and the burdens associated with taking time out away from my business and family life to meet regularly with HOGP Executive and HOGP General meetings and to convey their concerns to WEP and the DPE. .

At the first CCC meeting held 12/06/19, the Committee spoke of gaining access to the proposed development site to see the locations of the proposed turbines, to help members could gain a better understanding of the proposed development site, due to most of the members never to have set foot on the proposed development area.

An email from CCC Chairman David Ross on 20/08/19 updated Committee members that you were to look into the site visit to be scheduled for November.

On 21/08/19, the day after David's email, I received the attached recorded message on my business phone. (Attached recording and messages)

As Jim Robinson was contacted by WEP to discuss access for a site visit, it remains unclear how Jim would determine that it was myself wanting to drive a load of people around his property.

Clarification needs to be made that I am a representative of a stake holder group and a member of a Community Consultation Committee who does not wish to feel threatened or singled out by Jim or anyone for that matter, and certainly not contacted and left voice messages threatening me with jail and fines for setting foot on his property.

I trust you will attend to my complaint and give me the reassurance that myself and my family will not be held responsible for actions determined by either the CCC or anyone else with regards to his property and proposed development.

I look forward to your reply,

Regards John Krsulja

#	Date Raised	Date Responded	Question	Response
1	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	What roads are planned for upgrade or to be built in order to provide access?	<p>Minor upgrades may be required along Lindsays Gap Road, Barry Rd, Morrisons Gap Road, Head of the Peel Rd with significant work required around “devils elbow” if this route is preferred for turbine blades and towers. Currently the preferred route has not been finalised as traffic and transport assessment along the feasible routes will help determine which is the preferred route with the lowest impact to communities. This is expected to be completed in August 2020 in accordance with the attached program.</p>
2	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	When will the CCC be inspecting the project area and placement of turbines?	<p>CCC members are being invited for a site visit in early 2020. Permissions from host landowners are being sought to facilitate access to all areas of the proposed wind farm development area. This site visit in early 2020 is being timed so as to maximise the potential to view areas of proposed facilities including substation, O&M facility location and proposed turbine layout.</p>
3	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Being an isolated area, landholders are always on high alert to trespassers, thieves, illegal hunters and poachers, particularly when there are more people around eg holidays. What measures can be put in place to protect local landholders from potential increased crime and heightened levels of anxiety?	<p>As presented in the last CCC meeting held last September, a Social and Economic Assessment will be performed as part of the SEARS requirements. The main purpose of this study is to assess changes in social and economic variables that might be impacted (either positive or negative). We will take on your concerns regarding potential for increase in crime and request this is assessed as part of the social studies. The social and economic assessment is expect to be finished by August 2020.</p>
4	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	The ecosystems in the vicinity of the proposed turbines are rare, but also very diverse. Has the environmental impact assessment looked at each turbine site separately?	<p>Initially surveys capture the entire area identified in the PEA as the wind farm development corridor. The result is a comprehensive understanding of the flora and fauna species that are or could be present given habitat available, and allows for the final wind turbine generator locations to be modified and positioned such that the impact to threatened flora and fauns species or ecological communities can be avoided, mitigated or minimised. Targeted species surveys are also undertaken where proposed project infrastructure is proposed. The information from biodiversity surveys will be presented in the final Environmental Impact Statement.</p>

5	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>The proposal has been public for over a year now, why are there STILL adjoining landholders who have not been contacted for discussion about the project?</p>	<p>We have either spoken to or attempted to speak to all adjoining landowners or landowners to the development corridor or transmission line corridor. We welcome feedback to any specific landowners who would like to meet and discuss the project.</p>
6	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Where and how many bird audio monitoring stations do you currently have in place? What are the terms of the study?</p>	<p>The survey effort for timing for threatened species, bird utilisation and vegetation condition plots will meet the requirements of the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and any EPBC Act requirements, meet requirements published by the Office of Environment and Heritage, (OEH) and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE).</p> <p>Field surveys have been scoped based on the results of the Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment for the wind farm corridor and the Border Rivers Gwydir/Namoi Regional Native Vegetation Mapping (OEH, 2015) desktop mapping for the transmission corridor and potential transport routes up on to the ridge.</p> <p>The list of candidate threatened species for targeted surveys has been obtained through the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator for Plant Community Types in the project area (wind farm development corridor and transmission line corridor), rapid ecology survey carried out in 2017 and detailed spring surveys undertaken in 2018. The BAM Candidate Species reports are attached for information. Further species list have been cross checked against HOGPI input (thank you for input here).</p>
7	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What are the main concerns and considerations for councils?</p>	<p>Office of Environment and Heritage have been consulted and accepted methodologies proposed by ARUP. Bird monitoring stations (SongMeters) have been established across the site. The location and numbers will be presented as part of the Biodiversity Assessment Report.</p> <p>Council continue to be engaged on a regular basis with project updates. Councils interest is broad in the project but have focused on community consultation efforts, status of detailed studies, potential transport routes and project timelines.</p>

8 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19

if Morrisons Gap Road is the chosen access route to the proposed wind farm, what changes to the road do you envisage will be necessary, i.e. tree removal and/or lopping, easing of corners, etc.?

The Transport Route Assessment was recently completed and presented as the CCC.

Please see minutes from the CCC and our presentation which is also available on our website.

As per the information in the minutes, we have not arrived at a final conclusion on the route that will be taken for transport of major wind turbine components, however we can confirm that Morrisons Gap Road is one of the routes that is under consideration. If Morrisons Gap Road is selected as the preferred transport route, then the extent of modifications - and potential for vegetation removal - will depend on the final wind turbine blade and tower sections selected. As part of biodiversity surveys the potential routes are being surveyed and any vegetation removal will be assessed as part of the Biodiversity Assessment Report.

Similarly, and with regards to your second question regarding sealing the Morrisons Gap Road and dust suppression during construction we will investigate both options to mitigate any dust impact to local residents. Dust generation, traffic impacts and water consumption will all be considered in detail in the project Environmental Impact Statement, which we have commenced work on and will be available for review by the public at the end of next year per our studies plan (attached). The EIS will be available for public review and comment via the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website, and we will ensure you and the community are notified of this.

9	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	What width of land is required for the transmission lines? Does this need to be fully cleared land? What would this equate to in hectares?	<p>Generally transmission line easements can range from 30 - 90 metres, depending on the transmission line design and voltage to be transmitted. We are currently commencing early phase electrical transmission line concept design work with electrical transmission contractors, and at this stage estimate an easement of 60 metres is required for final construction. Generally, clear access under transmission lines is desirable, so that transmission lines and poles can be accessed to conduct routine maintenance or in the event of damage. However, there are some instances where transmission lines can be strung over vegetated areas, such as to cross from one side of a gully or steep hillside to the other. As the transmission line route and length is not yet finalised, a final total hectare figure is not yet available. The EPBC referral provides some indications of the extent of clearing that may be required and is available on our website through https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/news-and-updates.</p> <p>In the September CCC meeting and newsletter, it was announced that Wind Energy Partners had entered into an agreement with Engie, a French energy utility company with 103GW of installed power generation capacity worldwide. Engie are providing financial, technical and commercial support to WEP to continue HOGWF development and, subject to successful project permits and financial close, would construct and operate the wind farm.</p> <p>In the September CCC meeting, Wind Energy Partners presented information on how the 272 construction jobs and 34 operational job forecast estimates were derived. These job forecast estimates were proportionately estimated based on the job forecast estimates of Sapphire, White Rock, Glen Innes and Crudine Ridge Wind Farms and the potential megawatt capacity of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm. The information is presented on page 3 of the project presentation in the September CCC minutes on the Hills of Gold Wind Farm website. Additional job figure information has been provided to CCC members on direct and indirect construction and operations jobs generated in the Australian wind industry, as presented by the Clean Energy Council and Australian Wind Alliance publications.</p> <p>Please see the link following for the presentation made including references to jobs. https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/cc</p>
10	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Would Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd build the wind farm or would the project be sold to a wind farm developer?	
11	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	In its March presentation Wind Energy Partners proposed the potential of 272 construction and 34 operational jobs and maintenance jobs after the construction phase. How do these jobs figures compare with similar wind farm projects?	

12	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	When will turbine numbers be finalised and WEP be transparent to the community?	<p>Information was presented to the CCC on 18th September meeting on the current design optimization process that the Hills of Gold Wind Farm is currently undergoing. The design optimisation process is a multidisciplinary exercise that is performed under the planning framework and State and Local government requirements and considers technical, environmental, social, and economic variables. The main goal of this exercise, it is to find the optimal project footprint for the wind farm corridor and the transmission line route that is compliant with project’s planning framework, landowners’ approval, and will avoids and /or minimises vegetation, flora and fauna impacts and is still feasible from technical, social and economic perspectives. Once this footprint is better understood, a preliminary wind turbine layout will be presented to the community expected in March 2020. A diagram showing the wind farm design process is available at the following link. https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/cc</p> <p>It is assumed this question is in relation to the Community Enhancement Fund committed to by the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project.</p> <p>The Community Enhancement Fund design and how it will interact with the Tamworth Regional, Liverpool Plains and Upper Hunter Councils is not yet finalised and will involve input and discussion with CCC members as proposed in the last meeting. In the last CCC meeting, Wind Energy Partners proposed a Community Enhancement Fund workshop be held with CCC members, which includes representatives from these three councils. The purpose of the workshop would be to present a number of different case studies and options on how a CEF could be setup and operate for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, including key elements such as Purpose and Objectives, Establishment and Administration/Governance, and Funding Eligibility Criteria. The outcome of the workshop would be the receipt of feedback and community input in the design of the CEF, which WEP would then use to prepare a draft for review by the CCC. Information and sources for reference are available at the following link. https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/cc</p>
13	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Now that there are 3 councils involved, how will the money be split up?	<p>The Community Enhancement Fund design and how it will interact with the Tamworth Regional, Liverpool Plains and Upper Hunter Councils is not yet finalised and will involve input and discussion with CCC members as proposed in the last meeting. In the last CCC meeting, Wind Energy Partners proposed a Community Enhancement Fund workshop be held with CCC members, which includes representatives from these three councils. The purpose of the workshop would be to present a number of different case studies and options on how a CEF could be setup and operate for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, including key elements such as Purpose and Objectives, Establishment and Administration/Governance, and Funding Eligibility Criteria. The outcome of the workshop would be the receipt of feedback and community input in the design of the CEF, which WEP would then use to prepare a draft for review by the CCC. Information and sources for reference are available at the following link. https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/cc</p>

14	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What powers the turbines during these long months of minimal wind? And how do they cope with sudden extremely strong gusts?</p>	<p>Modern wind turbine generators have a number of advanced safety mechanisms to protect the components and ensure the longevity of their operation. Turbine have pitch control for blades to maximise the output at low wind speeds and protect the equipment at high wind speeds. There are also brakes applied in high wind speeds. Turbines are designed to withstand the turbulence and wind gusts and this is assessed when determining which turbine to select.</p> <p>Turbine operate when the wind speed reaches of 3m/s. There are only short periods and typically not for extended periods of time where the wind speed on the proposed site is not over 3m/s.</p>
15	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>If a landholder signs a Benefit Sharing Agreement does it mean they will be seen to accept any impacts and not be assessed by the Department for visual and noise impacts?</p>	<p>The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, as the Determining Authority for the project, will take into account all visual and noise impacts of the project on the community and landholders, even if landowners have entered into a Benefit Sharing Agreement with the proponent of the project. In some cases landowners can agree to higher thresholds within the guidelines for assessment under.</p>
16	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What studies will be done regarding shadow flicker and how would those results be reported back to landholders?</p>	<p>A shadow flicker assessment will be completed and results will be consulted to local residents. These studies will be done following consultation with the community on the preliminary layout and associated visual montages produced. These are currently planned to be completed in August 2020.</p>
17	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What guarantees are there that Nundle will handle any community funding and not Tamworth Council?</p>	<p>Please see our response to your question above. The administration of the Community Enhancement Fund is being determined through a process of engagement with the CCC members to determine the most appropriate governance for the fund. The purpose and objectives as agreed with the CCC will form the basis of how funding is managed.</p>
18	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>How can the compensation fund be set up to prioritise Nundle and Hanging Rock communities?</p>	<p>The workshop is designed to seek input into these questions. As mentioned above we sought one of the agenda items in the workshop to be the Objectives and Purpose and Selection Criteria. We think it is important that it is clear to who the fund should benefit and the types of initiatives. This is being sought through input from CCC members and HOGP are encouraged to attend this workshop.</p>
19	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Should this go ahead, what guarantees are there that damages to local roads by the heavy</p>	<p>We expect that condition reports of the roads being used by the project will be assessed and any impacts directly caused as a result of the project would be rectified. This is an area local council and Roads and Maritime Services will be consulted on through the process.</p>

equipment will be promptly rectified by the developer?

20 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19 Will compensation for damage to roads from intense heavy vehicle use be taken from the same funding pool allocated for community compensation?

Funding for the Community Enhancement Fund will not include any wear and tear on roads used by project vehicles. The Community Enhancement Fund is established to provide additional benefits to the community not upgrade or fix roads.

21 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19 How many turbines are needed to make the project viable?

Similarly, to the answer to the previous question, as we progress with the design optimisation process, we will have a better understanding of all project constraints. The outcome of this optimization process will be a layout that will be compliant with planning framework and State and Local government requirements and considers technical, environmental, social, and should be still viable from the economic perspective. The project is constantly being assessed for viability however is committed to complete environmental studies and lodge a development application. The number of turbines expected to go into construction depends on the outcome of the planning application and market conditions prevailing prior to construction.

22	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>We request that the name Hills of Gold Energy be changed. "Hills of Gold" is a name adopted by locals decades ago to encourage tourism. Wind Energy Partners' use of the locally developed name amounts to a theft of identity, and its use for a project, that will potentially take away Nundle's magic and change its character forever, is offensive to a great number of people in our community. A location specific name is not acceptable to the community.</p>	<p>We sought a name that we believed would expand on the reputation of the region as a tourist destination hence the decision to use "Hills of Gold". However we remain open to changing this if it is the views of the broader community including specifically the business and marketing community request.</p> <p>We will seek this is tabled at the next CCC to gain input from all members on their views.</p>
23	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>It has been found that wind coming over mountainous terrain can cause serious damage to wind turbines, reducing their commercial life to just 10 years. What would happen if the turbines became less effective or inoperable, thus reducing income to all stakeholders?</p>	<p>The wind conditions are used to complete a load analysis on all components of the turbines. The project will select turbines that are designed for the wind conditions on the project site. There are a number of projects constructed around Australia and overseas on similar landscapes. Wind turbulence is a well understood input into citing and planning projects.</p> <p>We have detailed wind data across the site and continue to assess the suitability of different turbine models for these conditions. This is not a risk to this project. We are unaware of any projects in Australia that have faced such problems.</p>

24 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19

Is the project running on time and what has been accomplished in this time?

The Hills of Gold wind farm project is currently on schedule, and the following is a non-exhaustive list of a number of project milestones and accomplishments achieved since the beginning of 2018:

- Preliminary Environmental Assessment lodged;
- Issuance of State Environmental Assessment Requirements;
- Entered into agreement with Engie for the provision of financial, technical and commercial support to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project;
- Submission of Environmental Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act Referral;
- Installation and commissioning of two new meteorological masts;
- Collection of approximately two years of wind campaign monitoring and data collection to further understand wind resource;
- Progress in identifying social constraints for both the establishment of wind farm and transmission line development corridor;
- Released 2 x community newsletters;
- Conducted a preliminary indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment;
- Conducted two rounds of field biodiversity surveys and assessments;
- Prepared a preliminary Landscape and Visual Assessment;
- Completed a Transport Route Assessment for transport of major wind turbine components from Port of Newcastle to the Site Boundary;
- Commenced discussions with turbine manufacturers and electrical transmission line design consultants and contractors for the development of preliminary concept designs for the wind farm and transmission lines;

These accomplishments have been communicated to the local community through various mediums, including town hall meetings, newsletters, website updates, CCC meetings, one on one meetings and email distributions.

25	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>During the first meeting in February 2018 when WEP met with a few Nundle residents to advise us of the potential project, a representative of WEP told the group, (quote) 'if the majority of the community does not want this project, the project will not go ahead' . Does WEP still stand by that?</p>	<p>Someva remains committed to continuing to engage and learn about specific concerns of the community. With stronger input and ownership by the community to the ultimate design and benefit sharing regimes we hope the community sees this is as great opportunity for the future of Nundle and Hanging Rock.</p>
26	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What value does WEP place on locations with existing tourism based on scenic value?</p>	<p>We have engaged with the business and tourism group to discuss concerns and have taken specific input from them regarding scenic values. These will be assessed as part of the visual montages and further discussion will occur with them.</p>
27	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Where will the site office, power station, battery storage facility and any other ancillary works be located? What area is typically needed for these works? Does it need to be flat land and if so, does WEP envisage needing to clear land for this purpose? How much?</p>	<p>Please see section 2.4 of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment which provides a summary of the infrastructure and potential area required.</p> <p>We are currently completed biodiversity studies in order to finalise turbine layout and ancillary infrastructure including the transmission line route and location of the substation, O&M facility, storage areas and any other required infrastructure on the development corridor. These facilities will be prioritised in areas that avoid or minimise any clearing required.</p> <p>We seek land that is as flat as possible to locate the substation, switching station, O&M facility and any storage areas.</p>

				<p>This will be backfilled and compacted. More detail can be provided in the Soil and Erosion scope to be completed as part of the EIS. We are open to suggestions for how excess soil could be used for local agricultural benefit.</p>
28	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What will happen with the soil that is removed from the ground to build the turbines?</p>	<p>Options are explored for local beneficial reuse of deeper excavated material, in applications such as road and temporary crane pad construction, drainage, and others. This however depends on the geotechnical characteristics and suitability of the material for these applications, and environmental issues relating to erosion and sediment control, water quality and dust need to be considered and control measures put in place in these reuse scenarios.</p>
29	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Division in the community... What are their proposals to bring the community together? So far there has been significant bullying, vandalism and defamation from particular people with vested interests. How do they plan to tackle this? Eg, better communication from WEP with emails, meetings, following guidelines, acknowledging community concerns, petition against the project etc?</p>	<p>We treat these allegation seriously and would encourage anyone who has felt any intimidation to contact us directly. We seek to employ best practise in our engagement with community members and ensure equal and fair access to information.</p>
30	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What responsibilities does WEP have to correct misinformation circulating in the community once it becomes aware of it?</p>	<p>We see this as an ongoing responsibility to be aware of information that is being circulated however as is the case with vast channels for distributions we focus on ensuring accurate information is available on our website.</p> <p>WEP maintain a website which offers regular updates on the project and details provided through CCC meetings for those interested. Someva also undertake one-on-one meetings with anyone who has questions about the project. We encourage anyone within the HOGPI to reach out if they would like to speak to us directly.</p>

31	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Who are all the directors and shareholders of Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd?	Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd is an Australian business registered with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission. The directors of the company are Jamie Chivers, Colin Liebmann, Rowan Liebmann and Rob Leacock. Shareholders of WEP are Colin and Julia Liebmann, Rowan and Miranda Liebmann, Kimchi Holdings Pty Ltd, Pogo Holdings Pty Ltd. Further information on the company is available on the ASIC website.
32	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Will a Hydrology Report be done and by whom? Where will water be sourced for the Hanging Rock proposal?	Yes, a Hydrology Report will be completed by an independent, specialist consultant and the report will be presented along with the Environmental Impact Statement. This report is expected to be completed in August 2020 and submitted as part of the EIS.
33	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Is the proponent willing to provide a 3D model to the community showing the locations of turbines on the landscape? If so, when would it be provided?	Visual montages will be prepared for the final wind turbine generator layout, from a number of different locations around the Hanging Rock, Nundle and Crawney communities. Feedback from the community has been received to areas of visual importance and these will be prioritised for the benefit of the community. A project timetable is attached and shows visual montages completed in June 2020.

34	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	Would the chair and committee be willing to be the first fully transparent CCC in the country?	We believe we are a fully transparent CCC and any ideas are welcomed for discussion at the CCC.
35	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	If the owner of a wind farm goes bankrupt, the liability for decommissioning of wind turbines falls to the turbine host. If the turbine host declares bankruptcy what guarantee does the community have that the wind turbines will be removed at the end of the wind farm's life?	There are provisions in land owner agreements that require the removal of wind turbines if they are not continuously operated or at the end of the agreed lease. The requirements are supported by bank guarantees to ensure resources are available to fulfil this obligation. Further to this if a approval is granted with a condition to remove the turbines this obligation would be on the next owner of the project.
36	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	What will happen to the wind turbine foundations when the wind farm is decommissioned?	Wind Turbine equipment will be removed and the foundations will remain buried underground.

37	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee minutes from July 2018 state that the project is behind schedule due to weather, and work will now be 24/7 on 12 hour shifts 6am-6pm. How does WEP envisage bad weather would impact this proposal and can you guarantee this won't happen in our community causing increased commuter traffic, truck movements, and night work site lighting?</p>	<p>Historic weather patterns are considered by contractors when committing to timeframes and work within approvals. While ultimately we can't control the weather conditions the historic conditions are used as a basis for project planning. Transport movements will be assessed against an expected project timetable and traffic will be limited to that which is assessed in the study and committed through the application. The conditions of approval (if granted) could enshrine these limits.</p>
38	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What impact does WEP think this project will have on the relaxed lifestyle in the village and tourism?</p>	<p>There are a number of wind farms that have been built and are now currently operating in remote and regional parts of Australia. We encourage members of the HOGP Inc to reach out to these communities to better understand long term changes to their community and lifestyle. Further information made available through the National Wind Farm Commissioner and long term concerns arising is available from this link:</p> <p>https://www.nwfc.gov.au/publications/2018-annual-report</p>
39	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>The Victorian Government recently introduced rules for all new wind turbine developments to have noise levels checked by an independent auditor who is approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) before and after construction. Do you support the NSW Government introducing similar improvements to wind turbine assessment and compliance?</p>	<p>WEP supports the decisions of the Government to place what they consider to be best practise across a range of technical, environmental and social assessments. We would actively participate in understanding the requirements of this and how we could adopt these measures should the government seek input from the industry.</p>
40	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What types of testing or modelling will be done to assess the "echo factor" in the valley and gullies around the area? What is it called</p>	<p>We have yet to engage our noise and acoustic engineers to complete detailed noise studies. Your concern is noted and we will seek to understand how "echo factor" is being assessed. Noise studies are currently scheduled to be completed by October 2020 however consultants will be engaged earlier and feedback can be provided to this questions earlier in the year.</p>

and will individual properties be assessed if requested?

Please see noise guidelines adopted by NSW below and following that is a link to the South Australian Noise Guidelines which provides the technical assessment requirements.

41 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19 If a landholder's place of work is separate from where they live, will their place of work be assessed for noise ie sheds, yards?

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/wind-energy-noise-assessment-bulletin-2016-12.pdf>

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/all_publications/for_councils/wind_farm_noise

The documents state that dwellings need to be assessed for any impact to noise. Our SEARs require that we assess noise under the following guidelines depending on the type of noise generated:

42 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19 In the Liverpool Range Wind Farm Determination the highest level of construction noise in one residence was assessed at up to 50dB and for 23 other residences up to 40-45dB. How is construction noise assessed compared to construction traffic noise and operational wind turbine noise?

- assess wind turbine noise in accordance with the NSW Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin (EPA/DPE, 2016);
- assess noise generated by ancillary infrastructure in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017);
- assess construction noise under the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009);
- assess traffic noise under the NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011); and
- assess vibration under the Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline (DECC, 2006);

43 18-Sep-19 19-Nov-19 How much power does a wind turbine itself need to operate?

These documents can be searched online for the specific requirements of each and how our noise consultants will be required to apply requirements to the wind project. This depends on the turbine but power is only required to start the turbine. A small infeed is required to turn the turbine into the wind and pitch the blades to capture energy. This amount of energy equates to very small amount of the energy generated, in the order of 0.1% rounded up.

44	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>How does the proponent envisage the profile of the mountain range will change due to excavation, movement of soil, roads and infrastructure?</p> <p>Where is all the water coming from to make all the concrete? How many mega litres will be requested as an allocation? Please provide an itemized list of how the water will be budgeted for use.</p>	<p>Earth works are expected to be required however turbines and roads will be cited to minimise these works. This will be better understood during detailed design however we don't expect the profile of the mountain range to change materially as a result of these earthworks.</p>
45	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What are the processes required to investigate a water source for the project and what approvals are needed?</p>	<p>The amount of water required will depend on the final layout and detailed design. Water is required mainly for foundations and dust suppression. The sources and uses of water will be detailed in the environmental impact assessment. We can commit to ensuring that this question is responded to in detail in the EIS.</p> <p>Our SEARs require that the following is completed for water assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantify water demand, identify water sources (surface and groundwater), including any licensing requirements, and determine whether an adequate and secure water supply is available for the development; access potential impacts on the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater resources, including impacts on other water users and watercourses; where the project involves works within 40 metres of the high bank of any river, lake or wetlands (collectively waterfront land), identify likely impacts to the waterfront land, and how the activities are to be designed and implemented in accordance with the <i>DPI Water Guidelines for Controlled Activities</i> (DPI, 2012) and (if necessary) <i>Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI, 2003); and describe the measures to minimise surface and groundwater impacts, including how works on steep gradient land or erodible soil types would be managed and any contingency requirements to address residual impacts.
47	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>How much area does a battery storage facility need? Does it need flat land and will excavation be carried out to achieve any flat land required? Same questions for sub station, workers' facilities and turbine pads.</p>	<p>Yes flat land is the preference. As mentioned in a question above we are currently determining the most suitable locations for this infrastructure based on the biodiversity surveys and preliminary turbine design. Priority will be given to flat land and land that is less environmentally sensitive.</p>

48	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>What was WEP's obligation to contact and consult with landowners in the district and did WEP meet its obligations?</p>	<p>NSW Wind Guidelines recommend that early consultation is completed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the community about the project and the strategic context; • gathering valuable knowledge from the community; • establishing relationships between the proponent and the community. <p>WEP undertook meetings with key stakeholder groups, held public meetings, undertook house visits, engaged local media, sent newsletters and surveys and engaged local community consultants in order to go above the requirements for early consultation.</p> <p>Please refer to section D "Community Consultation Approach and Results" in our Preliminary Environmental Assessment which is also attached for your information. We sought to be transparent and provide a comprehensive list of concerns raised as part of our efforts to engage early.</p>
49	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>Bush fires are a major concern in the Hanging Rock. What measures would be put in place to protect landowners and ensure that emergency services could attend unhindered?</p>	<p>Improved access to firefighting services will be available to fight fires if approaching from or to neighbouring properties to the project. Access to this region is currently challenging and onsite all weather roads will improve this for fire-fighting. In the event of aerial support we will engage with Rural Fire Fighting Services to ensure that operational support can be provided and turbine stopped to support firefighting efforts in the region. A hazards and risk assessment will be completed and rural fire service consulted as part of the development application.</p>
50	18-Sep-19	19-Nov-19	<p>When would the first jobs become available? Would you please provide a timeline for employment?</p>	<p>We have already sought to hire locals where possible including community consultants. Employment will be available from when construction commences and then again for the long term operation of the project. Timelines for seeking approvals are provided in the attached and we would expect construction to commence within 18-24months of lodging an development application subject to approvals and other conditions.</p>

APPENDIX D COMMUNITY CONSULTATION APPROACH AND RESULTS

Prepared by Inclusive Engagement

Hills of Gold Energy Project Community Consultation Report



About Inclusive Engagement

Inclusive Engagement are a husband and wife team who live 15km north of Nundle and have a 30 year history of community consultation for large multinational energy companies with interests in renewable energy, mineral exploration and oil and gas. IE specialise in bringing local stakeholders closure to project developers and ensuring information about potential projects is correctly communicated to all those who may be impacted or have an interest in the development.

Project ID	Hills of Gold Energy Project (HGEP)
Document Name	Community Consultation Strategy and Results
Submission Date	11 May 2018
Lead Author	John and Christine Willcox
Client	Wind Energy Partners
Scope of Report	Summary of Community Consultation Strategy and Results

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1. Background

Inclusive Engagement (IE) were engaged by Wind Energy Partners (WEP) to support initial community consultation and gain a greater understanding of local interests in a proposed wind farm in the area in accordance with the Wind Farm Guidelines 2016 issued by the Department of Planning and Environment and using best practise for community consultation for wind farms.

2. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

IE initially advised WEP on a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. The aim of the strategy was to identify and engage stakeholders of the project in 3 categories depending on their proximity and potential interest in the project.

- **Category 1** Those landholders directly or with the potential to host wind turbines, substations, site access and transmission line infrastructure.
- **Category 2** Adjacent landholders to the supplied development corridor generally within the 3km as per the NSW wind farm guidelines. It is important for those who are closest to the proposed project to be given information regarding potential impacts, the project benefits and timelines for development, construction and operation.
- **Category 3** Broader surrounding community, community groups, Tamworth Council, business groups, community groups, planning authorities, relevant government departments and local media.

The purpose of categorising stakeholders is to ensure they are consulted in an appropriate forum to encourage open discussion and share information most efficiently.

Each stakeholder group has been approached based on different forums to ensure information is used to guide the project design and areas of interest that require further investigation.

Category 1 and Category 2 stakeholders were met one on one at their homes. Meetings were held by IE and in some cases WEP was requested for follow up meetings where further detail was required. This allowed WEP to understand the proximity and specific setting of the stakeholder and also allow concerns to be voiced in a flexible and two way manner. The intent was to build relationships that could last during development and construction such that stakeholders could feel comfortable communicating directly with WEP as the project progresses. This also better allowed WEP and IE to understand the context to local concerns. As the project progresses these key stakeholders will continue to be informed, consulted and collaborated with to ensure any impacts of detailed assessments are discussed directly. In certain circumstances mitigation strategies may be required to the project design or specific plans of management to mitigate or minimise to acceptable levels the impact to nearby residents.

Attitude to co-operating with the proposed development, areas of “No Go” on the affected land, input into suitable access corridors, specific terms of access that address individual landholder concerns including biosecurity and any areas of ecological significance with regard to vegetation mapping were included in discussions. A community survey was also provided as part of these meetings for submission to WEP. Where a response was not provided from the survey, all issues, comments and concerns were captured in the form of contemporaneous notes. These notes were then added to the Stakeholder Register.

Category 3 stakeholders were also met prior to the lodgement of the PEA. Larger special interest group meetings took place to understand how these interests might be impacted and specific community values and opinions can be understood. It should be noted that the community requested a number of additional meetings for which WEP organised to provide more information.

3. Broader Community Engagement Strategy

In order to engage with the community in the Tamworth region an above the line strategy was taken to provide high level information about the project.

In order to promote attendance at the public meetings and interaction with broader community interests the following was undertaken:

- Media release and interviews with local papers, a local TV station and a local radio station
- Flyers were dropped in letter boxes and a notices put up in public places
- Community leaders were engaged and provided advice on the nature and timing of the community forums.
- High profiles clubs such as Rotary, Lions and Country Womens Association were engaged to support the hosting of public meetings

The result of this strategy ensured strong participation in public meetings and better knowledge of the project in the region. Please see attached appendix for examples of media attention.

4. Summary of Results

Key meetings were held with the following groups:

- Over 50 one on one meetings were held with families in close proximity to the proposed wind farm including along the proposed transmission line route.
- A community forum was held at the Nundle Memorial Hall at which an estimated 250 people were present
- A community forum was held at the Hanging Rock Memorial Hall in which an estimated 80 people were present
- Three meetings were held with the Nundle Business and Tourism Group
- The Nundle Business and Tourism Group hosted a meeting prior to the community meeting and provided WEP with information the community specifically wanted addressed in the community forums. This information is summarised below.

- Council was engaged twice, initially to introduce the project, and a follow up meeting was held to brief Councillors, planning and the communication team on the project.
- Regular meetings and communication with Tamworth Council Nundle and Hanging Rock representative.
- Over 200 phone calls were received by IE and WEP from interested community members during the time of the public meetings and subsequent to these.

At all meetings with all interested parties, a full stakeholder register has been maintained including full property descriptions, names of owners and occupiers, details of topics discussed and any concerns. All communications records have been stored.

Surveys and category 3 stakeholder meetings were also helpful to determining potentially interested candidates for a broad representation of community members for a community consultative committee to represent wider community concerns ,and communication plans to address these

A summary of feedback through the following mediums has been compiled to present a summary of community interest in the project:

- One on one meetings
- Surveys returned from one on one meetings
- Input from special interest groups
- Public meeting questions asked
- Direct communication including calls and emails received

A summary of the feedback is categorised into areas of interest:

Economic Opportunity

- There is interest in the opportunities the wind farm would create for local businesses however concern within the existing tourism businesses as to the impact of the project on regular and existing visitors. This was a mixed opinion with some expecting an increase in tourism and others not. Overall the majority of respondents agreed there would be increased economic opportunities.
- There was interest from the community in ensuring jobs were provided to local community members
- There is interest from the community in how those without businesses or supporting the project would benefit through a community fund.
- There is concern that the mountain range is an important tourism attraction adding to the appeal of Nundle additional to the heritage of the town.
- There was concern the town could not support accommodating the staff required to construct the project
- It was suggested WEP work with the community to promote eco-tourism through open days of the wind farm, walking and mountain bike routes, potential tourism operators to access parts of the wind site and look outs to be established at key vantage points in the development corridors.

Sustainability and Environment

- Interest was expressed in how towns such as Nundle and Hanging Rock could become 100% renewable and could this allow businesses and individuals to benefit from lower cost and renewable energy.
- There was significant interest in renewable energy and how sustainable the generating type is when considering embodied energy in the manufacturing vs the efficiency.
- Overall strong support for renewable energy however there were also concerns as to why the specific project site had been chosen. A strong focus on presentations and discussions was on the project justifications. A specific question was raised during a public meeting suggesting the community would be more supportive of the Project if it were moved further East into the heavily forested area and further from the transmission line.
- There is no private access to the Ben Halls Gap National Park and local residents and business operators suggested that improved access would provide better utility of the national park.
- However it was also stated impacts of native and virgin bushland, native animals, birds, peace and quiet of the area should be assessed as to the construction and operational impacts.
- Sheba Dams are an important tourism destination and historically significant area.
- The community wanted to know whether there were any endangered species in the National Park or on the project site.
- Concern for affects on micro-climates on the site
- Interest in how much vegetation removal would be required to host the project
- The project site is the start of watersheds feeding several downstream rivers. Concern was raised on the impact the project would have on these watercourses.
- Concern for potential erosion on the site and the impact habitat and watercourses on the site
- How much water is required and where would the water be sourced for construction
- How many full time jobs would be created in the project?
- Where would construction staff be housed and would this impact existing tourism businesses such as the Woollen Mill
-

Visual Amenity

- The community seeks a greater understanding of the visual impact of the project based on the likely turbine models, size and layout of the project.
- Specific areas of significance to the community from which the visual amenity was requested to be assessed included:
 - o Visual assessment was requested to be assessed from further distances than 3km from the proposed site
 - o The Hanging Rock lookout and descending the road from Hanging Rock

- From within the town of Nundle (specifically from Jenkins St, Oakenville St, and the cemetery)
- From Hanging Rock
- From residences along Morrisons Gap Road
- From the New England Highway and Lindsays Gap Road near the New England Highway
- From the Golf Course and Bowling Club in Nundle
- Historic homesteads including Woombramurra, Koobah, the DAG Sheepstation and Cottage on the Hill.
- The road over Crawney looking North towards the ridge
- Properties along Morrisons Gap Rd
- The homestead on Head of the Peel Rd
- Homesteads on the other side of the Crawney Pass near Timor.
- It was requested that visual photomontages be used to express the visual impact from area of significance
- There were misconceptions to the location of the wind farm above Nundle and the visual impact if in that location.
- Comments were received that the forestry plantation along the ridge further to the North of the development corridors had already altered the visual amenity of the ridge in parts.
- A number of people living with views of the area of the site expressed it be a priority to minimise visual impact
- The colour of the turbines should be such that they minimise the visual impact. It was also stated that those hills are often shrouded in clouds, particularly in the morning.
- Detail was requested by those living closer to the project on how shadow flicker will be assessed on residents.

Health Impacts

- There were concerns for whether there could be health impacts for those living nearby caused by powerlines, wind turbines or construction related activities.

Transport and Access

- Concern was raised over the impact of dust on nearby residents on the unsealed Head of the Peel Rd and Morrisons Gap Rd if either are used for access to the site as currently proposed. It was suggested to prioritize upgrade of Morrisons Gap Road to a tarred road due to increased traffic from trucks etc, and a speed limit imposed.
- Concern was raised by residents in Nundle and Hanging Rock as to construction traffic volumes and timings. Members of Hanging Rock community suggested WEP look at overtaking bays on the Barry Rd on route to Hanging Rock. Nundle community members mentioned specific concern to the location of the primary school and school bus routes.
- Further detail was requested on where roads would need to be upgraded and the size of equipment being transported.

- There is an expectation that construction jobs during two years initially would increase income in hotels/general store/service station/takeaway.
- Creation of 34 jobs during project lifetime potentially increasing pre/primary school sustainability and participation in community groups, injected income from the project into community projects.

General Interest:

- Residents along Morrisons Gap road and Shearers road complained about the poor telecommunications in the area and requested installation of a mobile phone tower to service the area
- More information was requested on layout, turbine types and sizes and transmission line route and structures required.
- Regular community updates were requested and representation by certain community members in a community consultative committee.
- Was there a greater risk of fires during construction and operation
- Neighbouring landowners to the project current use aerial methods for fertilising their land. Concern was raised as to whether this practise can continue and if not the impact on the value of their land
- Certain residents with a greater viewshed of the proposed development corridor raised concerns of reduced property values
- Suggestions to reduce the size of the project to just provide power to Nundle and surrounds rather than the whole state.
- Further information on whether turbines will require aviation lighting.
- It was suggested we include Solar in the project is it was not as significant visual impact.
- Concern the technology would be outdated in 5-10 years
- Concern wind power is more expensive than traditional power
- Interest from some of the community in how they can benefit from being allowed to invest in the project.
- There was concern raised of the potential proximity of turbines to lifestyle blocks on Morrisons gap road in the north of the site, particularly with regard to dust during construction and operational transport routes, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker. It was requested that turbines are located further down the ridge given the extent of ridgeline available.
- How can the community benefits offered through the community enhancement fund be ensured to be paid by the company

5. Community Communication Plan

It has been advised to maintain several mediums of communication to continue to provide information to the community. The following was recommended by IE to WEP to maintain information flow regarding the project to the community.



During meeting contact details were collected in order to provide the community with regular updates in their preferred medium. It is understood that WEP will be using these channels to continue to communicate updates on the project.

Further to formal communication channels as discussed above, Inclusive Engagement continue to maintain ongoing contact with the community as key contacts. It is estimated that we have received over 200 phone calls from communities members in the lead up and following the public meetings.

6. Ongoing Community Engagement Strategy by Project Development Period

The following ongoing engagement strategies have been advised to Wind Energy Partners based on key milestones of the project:

Category of Stakeholder and Sub-Group	Objective	Medium
1. Pre-Submission of Preliminary Environmental Assessment		
Category 1 - landholders directly or with the potential to host wind turbines, substations, site access and transmission line infrastructure	As discussed in the body of this document above	
Category 2 - Adjacent landholders to the supplied development corridor generally within the 3km as per the NSW wind farm guidelines		
Category 3 – Local Community around Hanging Rock and Nundle		
Category 3 – Tamworth Council, Nundle Business and Tourism Marketing Group, Lions, CWA, Rotary, relevant government departments		
Category 3 – Media and broader community around Tamworth Local Government Area.		
2. Following receipt of State Environmental Assessment Requirements		
Category 1 - landholders directly or with the potential to host wind turbines, substations, site access and transmission line infrastructure	Ensure timely updates are received that might directly affect property Ensure there is consultation during the scoping and execution of impact assessment work where this is relevant to potentially affected properties Provide an opportunity to guide the project design such that concerns are understood and assessed by WEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings - Newsletters, - Website updates - CCC Membership
Category 2 - Adjacent landholders to the supplied development corridor generally within the 3km as per the NSW wind farm guidelines		
Category 3 – Local Community around Hanging Rock and Nundle	Ensure factual information is available at all times for the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletters, - Website updates - CCC Membership

	Provide this in forums that suit a range of stakeholders where internet is not always the most convenient way to receive.	
Category 3 – Tamworth Council, Nundle Business and Tourism Marketing Group, Lions, CWA, Rotary, relevant government departments	Maintain regular contact based on major project milestones being achieved and communicating progress towards milestones. Ensuring that project information is shared early Collaboration to ensure existing interests are understood and the impact and opportunities and impacts for these groups are discussed regularly Provide an opportunity to guide the project design such that concerns are understood by WEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings - Website
Category 3 – Media and broader community around Tamworth Local Government Area.	Provide regular updates of the project progress and relevant opportunities that may be available for the broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website and press releases
3. Prior to submission of Environmental Impact Assessment as further assessment on layout and suitable turbine is assessed		
Category 1 - Landholders directly or with the potential to host wind turbines, substations, site access and transmission line infrastructure	Ensure timely updates are received that might directly affect property Provide an opportunity to guide the project design such that concerns are understood and assessed by WEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings - Newsletters, - Website updates - CCC Membership
Category 2 - Adjacent landholders to the supplied development corridor generally within the 3km as per the NSW wind farm guidelines		

Category 3 – Local Community around Hanging Rock and Nundle	Ensure factual information is available at all times for the community Provide this in forums that suit a range of stakeholders where internet is not always the most convenient way to receive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletters, - Website updates - CCC Membership
Category 3 – Tamworth Council, Nundle Business and Tourism Marketing Group, Lions, CWA, Rotary, relevant government departments	Collaboration to ensure detailed impact assessments are clearly communicated to specific groups Provide opportunities for two-way communication and discussion on areas of the impact assessment that cause concern or require further explanation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings - Website
Category 3 – Media and broader community around Tamworth Local Government Area.	Provide regular updates of the project progress and relevant opportunities that may be available for the broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website and press releases
Following Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) and during public exhibition of EIS		
Category 1 - landholders directly or with the potential to host wind turbines, substations, site access and transmission line infrastructure	Provide an opportunity for questions to be asked directly about the details in the EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings
Category 2 - Adjacent landholders to the supplied development corridor generally within the 3km as per the NSW wind farm guidelines		
Category 3 – Local Community around Hanging Rock and Nundle	Ensure the broader community is aware the detailed assessment is available and how they can learn more about this and ask questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Forums - Website - Media
Category 3 – Tamworth Council, Nundle Business and Tourism Marketing Group, Lions, CWA, Rotary, relevant government departments	Provide a link to the Major Projects website and an opportunity to discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One on one meetings - Newsletters

	any queries before lodging any responses.	
Category 3 – Media and broader community around Tamworth Local Government Area.	Provide information to the broader community that detailed assessments are available for review on the Major Projects website	- Website and press releases
Following determination by the Department of Planning and Environment		
To be determined through project evaluation period and responses from key stakeholders through the assessment of state environmental assessment requirements.		

The Northern Daily Leader, 4th April 2018

Hanging Rock urges Nundle to consider wind farm jobs by Jamieson Murphy



WHILE businesses in Nundle are concerned about the impact the proposed \$600-million wind farm will have on tourism, the Hanging Rock community is weighing up the potential jobs.

The development would create 270 jobs during its 18 to 24 month construction phase, with a further 34 ongoing jobs to operate and maintain the wind farm.

Fifth-generation Hanging Rock resident Luke Brand is an engineer by trade and only gets to spend weekends in the town, because he commutes to Sydney for work.

“It’s difficult to find good, steady, ongoing work in this area and its surrounds,” he said.

“It’s not every day that a \$600 million development lands on your back door.

“It’ll bring a lot of construction work, along with a lot of long-term well-paying jobs – 32 jobs spread across Nundle and Hanging Rock would be an extraordinary opportunity for our two towns.”

Mr Brand urged Nundle businesses to consider more than just the potential tourism impacts.

“I would welcome the long-term economic benefits of substantial employment – tourism ebbs and flows, but the stable employment will be around for decades,” he said.

Bruce Moore lives on a property 20km out of Hanging Rock, and installed his own 50m-tall wind turbine nine years ago.

He sought to ease some of the common concerns being raised.

“In nine years, we’ve not found one dead bird or bat,” Mr Moore said.

“It’s 80 metres from my bedroom window, and it has no noise impact.”

Mr Moore said while a “small nucleus” of Nundle residents had already voted against the project, the community had a responsibility to closely consider it from both sides.

“I would encourage people to look at the positives, rather than just the negatives,” he said.

“The traffic flow through Hanging Rock will change the daily routine of the community, but if the road gets upgraded as a result, there’s the positive.

“Nundle businesses are worried about tourism, but if they get on the front foot and explore all the avenues, it could have a positive tourism impact.”

Gerry Chan has lived in Hanging Rock with his wife for 17 years.

“It’s God’s country – but we don’t want everyone to know that,” he said, laughing.

“For myself personally, I see the wind farm’s positives outweighing the negatives.”

“With renewable energy, we’re doing our little bit to leave this planet a bit cleaner than it is at the moment.”

Weblink: <http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5314760/hanging-rock-urges-nundle-to-consider-wind-farm-jobs-over-tourism-impact/>

Last Accessed: 11th April 2018

The Northern Daily Leader, 6th March 2018

Nundle says \$600m wind farm won't divide community, by Jamieson Murphy



FULL HOUSE: Nundle resident Shawn Stone speak to the audience. To the left, some of the turbines at White Rock Wind Farm near Glen Innes, which are similar to the Nundle proposal. Photos: Megan Trousdale /Peter Hardin

A \$600-million wind farm on the picturesque hills above Nundle is bound to stir up emotions, but the town has vowed not to let the issue divide it.

More than one-third of the town's population turned out to a public meeting about the proposed development, which would see up to 98 wind turbines, each standing at 220-metres-tall, stretch along 20 kilometres of ridgeline from Hanging Rock to Crawney, south east of Nundle.

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group chair Nick Bradford said for many residents it was their first time hearing about the Wind Energy Partners proposal.

"For a town of less than 300 people to get 110 people turn up to a meeting, it obviously means it's sparked people's attention," Mr Bradford said.

He stressed that despite the emotive nature of the proposal, the "brilliant meeting" was "very respectful of people's differing opinions".

"This is a community who cares," Mr Bradford said.

"You cant buy that, you can't engineer that. It's just something that is inherently in the people who live here."

Advocates on both sides of the debate spoke to the crowd, touching on the common theme of the economic benefits to the region and the proposal's visual impact on the town.

"The Nundle township does not finish where the houses finish, our brand and our identity are our hills of gold that extend to the ridge," Mr Bradford said.

"Some people may think that 98 wind turbines up there may not look attractive. Some may think differently."

Mr Bradford described himself as a "fence sitter", and hoped the community maintained an open mind to the project.

"We'll find out a lot more information during two community meetings with the developer at the end of the month," he said.

The meetings will be held on March 22 and 23.

The Leader understands Wind Energy Partners takes the first step in getting the project off the ground at the end of the month, applying to the state government for its Standard Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Environmental studies are also expected to take place this year.

Wind Energy Partners spokesman Jamie Chivers said the company looked forward to continuing its discussions with the community.

"The Hanging Rock and Nundle area has a rich history and could have an exciting future," Mr Chivers said.

"We are proposing to develop a wind farm following a feasibility study that proves the hills of gold are windy too."

Weblink: <http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5267690/nundles-hills-of-gold-scouted-for-600m-wind-farm/>

Last Accessed: 11th March 2018

The Northern Daily Leader, 8th March 2018

Nundle mulls wind farm benefits, jobs and visual impact, by Jamieson Murphy



PICTURESQUE: The main concern about the proposal is about the visual impact it will have on Nundle's hills of gold. Photo: Megan Trousdale

THE proposed \$600-million wind farm near Nundle would bring more than 300 jobs to the region, the project's developer says.

[The 98-wind turbine proposal from Wind Energy Partners](#) would need a workforce of 272 during its 18 to 24 month construction phase.

Once completed, there would be up to 34 ongoing jobs to operate and maintain the wind farm over its 25-year lifetime.

There is also the potential for the project to include a solar farm, located on Lindsays Gap Rd, near Old Wallabadah Rd, towards the New England Hwy.

Wind Energy Partners have suggested it would create a community investment fund, to give back to the region around the wind farm.

"Discussions have been held with special interests groups to understand how the project could enhance the existing local heritage and tourism industry," a Wind Energy Partners' spokesperson said.

"Furthermore, Wind Energy Partners will engage with community leaders in Nundle and Hanging Rock to discuss how a dedicated community fund could support local initiatives such as education, tourism, health of other community special interests."

The Nundle community is still weighing up the pros and cons of the development. The major point of contention is the visual impacts of the project.

The wind turbines would stand at 220-metres-tall, stretching along 20 kilometres of ridgeline from Hanging Rock to Crawney, south east of Nundle.

More than one-third of the town's 300 people turned up to a community meeting about the development on Monday. Two more community meetings will be held in the town on March 22 and 23.

QUICK FACTS

- \$600 million project
- 272 jobs during construction
- 34 ongoing jobs
- 18-24 months to build
- 25-year lifetime
- Could include solar farm
- Possible community investment fund

Weblink: <http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5272578/nundle-wind-farm-would-bring-more-than-300-jobs-to-region/>

Last Accessed: 11th March 2018

About Inclusive Engagement

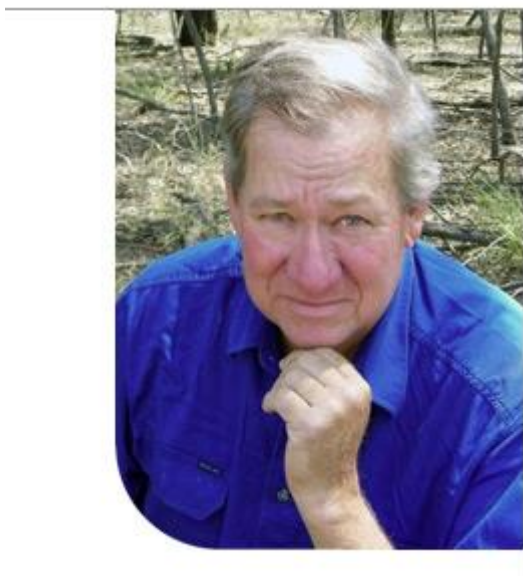
John Willcox – Principal Consultant

John was raised on a small crops farm in Bowen NQ (and supports the NQ Cowboys!). He has spent his professional career as an agronomist, change management consultant and a CEO for two large agribusinesses.

John and his wife Christine began their careers in the Emerald Irrigation Area solving problems with a new Irrigation Scheme on a daily basis associated– understanding Irrigation Scheduling and Pest Management , salinity and farming systems.

In addition to expertise in agronomy, irrigation and extension and adoption practices, John developed his commercial and business skills running a consulting business, then as Regional Manager of CottCo Ag Sales, and more recently as CEO of two large agribusinesses. Both of these CEO positions involved substantial restructuring and repositioning of the companies.

John is an expert in stakeholder engagement and change management. This is evidenced by the success of the several initiatives he has been involved with - the Water Use Efficiency Initiative, the “Target 10 Tonne’ change management program for Indonesia’s largest sugar producer, and the success of the Landholder Relations Team he managed for a major gas company. His philosophy is to achieve inclusion, empowerment and ownership of all stakeholders. This involves creating a clear understanding of agendas through honest, open discussion and the dovetailing of outcomes to achieve common ground.



Christine Willcox – Consultant

Christine has had a long and successful career as an agricultural and change management consultant. She is a qualified Irrigation Agronomist and was the first female cotton consultant in Queensland. She spearheaded the adoption and implementation of integrated pest management strategies and pioneered irrigation scheduling based on crop water use models, neutron probes and, more recently, capacitance probes.

She has extensive experience in project design, management, implementation and review. Christine was a key member of the initial Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative - a highly successful change management program on water reform for the Australian Sugar Industry. She was part of the McKinsey & Co Sugar Team that restructured Indonesia's largest sugar producer, taking it to World Best Practice in two years. As part of this initiative Christine was solely responsible for designing, managing, negotiating and implementing a pest management program across 65,000 ha – a world first.

In addition to driving change management and capacity-building programs, Christine has great organisational and administrative skills. She recently completed a contract as Business Coordinator for a major CSG company, setting up systems and procedures to handle the rapid growth of the CSG industry.

On top of her professional career, Chris is the founder and manager of one of Australia's significant Arabian Performance Horse Studs – Aqaba Arabians. She enjoys passing on her skills and knowledge to the new custodians of her lifelong passion for horses – her three grandchildren!





John Willcox

Principal Consultant

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Consultant

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APPENDIX E COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SURVEY

Nundle Renewable Energy Park

Local Community Consultation Survey

Survey Purpose:	The region of Nundle is rich in natural resources presenting a high potential for renewable energies. These include solar PV and wind turbines. The purpose of this survey is to understand the attitudes towards renewable energy in the Nundle community.
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Introduction:

The number of renewable energy projects in Australia is increasing on account of state and federal policies encouraging the uptake of renewable technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and now because it is cheaper than alternate coal and gas projects. Renewable energy facilities are designed and located to take advantage of the available resources. The facilities also need to be reasonably close to existing electrical grid infrastructure in order to economically deliver to consumers the electricity they generate.

There are many different types of renewable facilities that can produce green electricity. Solar farms, wind farms, hydroelectric power plants or biomass power plants are the most common.

The development of renewable energy projects can take 5-10 years given the importance of studying the available resources and the suitability of different technologies for their long lives. These types of projects are designed for 35 years with the potential for longer in some circumstances.

It is important to understand values within the community and ensure that these are taken into consideration in the concept design, construction and operational phase of projects.



This questionnaire has been made to group information on the Nundle community opinions on renewables.

The Survey

About the survey:

The survey comprises multiple choice and open-ended questions and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Who should complete it:

The survey is designed for a wide range of persons from the community to assess views and opportunities that might be created by a renewable energy park in the region. Key participants should include residents, local landowners, local businesses with or without the skills to contribute, elected and community leaders, local interest groups who perhaps have an interest in tourism, the environment or sustainability.

What's next

Results of the survey will be taken into consideration for preliminary concept design of a renewable energy project and allow Someva to directly feed information to the project developer and investors. It will create a preliminary understanding of the community concerns and help provide us and the government form a view as to how to proceed with a minimum impact.

Questions about the Nundle Wind Farm

Note: Some of the survey's questions can expect more than one answer

Question 1:

What is your relationship with the Nundle community?

- You own a business in Nundle, Hanging Rock or Crawney
- You are an employee of a business in Nundle, Hanging Rock or Crawney
- You are a locally elected
- You are a local landowner

- You are a resident of Nundle
- You are a resident of Hanging Rock
- You are resident of Crawney
- You are planning to acquire a property in Nundle, Hanging Rock or Crawney
- Other: _____

Question 2:

Have you ever seen a renewable energy facility?

- Yes
- No

Question 3:

What kind of facility was it?

- A Solar Farm (Thermal or Photovoltaic)
- A Hydroelectric Dam
- A Wind Farm
- A Biomass Power Plant
- Other, it was _____
- I have never seen a renewable energy facility

Question 4:

What did you like about that/these energy facility(ies)

- _____

- I have never seen any

Question 5:

What did you dislike about that/these energy facility(ies)

- _____

- I have never seen any

Question 6:

The Australian Government is committed in environmental objectives including the Renewable Energy Target which is designed to require 23% of all electricity from renewables and the Paris agreement which is global commitment to carbon dioxide reduction.

Do you think Australia should have entered into these agreements?

- Yes
- No because _____

Question 7:

In addition, with these engagements, traditional Australian electricity power plants like coal facilities are aging and scheduled for retirement. This decommissioning of thermal generation capacity will create a need for new energy. Do you think renewable installation combined with battery storage or pumped hydro storage facilities can replace traditional types of coal and gas generation?

- Yes
- I am not sure
- Not at all, this type of production can't be reliable

Question 8:

Do you think renewable energy facility is economically an opportunity for Nundle and that new opportunities will be created?

- An Opportunity
- A threat to existing business
- I'm indifferent

Question 9:

Please expand on your comments in question 8 if you would like to add more information

- I believe that _____

- I'm indifferent

Question 10:

If you were a member of the authority giving approval for a renewable energy power plant installation, what would be the most important request(s) you would ask to the developer to undertake?

- I would ask the developer to prioritise _____

- I don't really know

Question 11:

As a member of the Nundle Community or around, would you be in favour of a renewable energy power plant installation in the area?

- Yes
- No

Question 12:

What kind of benefits would you expect the Nundle region from a renewable energy installation?

I would expect _____

Question 13:

Are you aware of any endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna in the vicinity? If Yes please specific species and any information to help us assess.

Question 14:

Do you visit any particular landscape features regularly or are there any features of the landscape you value highly?

Question 15:

Are you aware of any aboriginal or European cultural heritage sites? If 'yes' please provide us information to identify areas of significance.

Question 16:

If a community consultation committee would be formed to discuss about any project, would you be interested in being a community representative to represent the local community interests?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please enter your contact details bellow to let us contact you to move forward.

Name:

First Name:

Address

Phone Number:

email address

Question 17:

Do you think this survey was useful and its questions were relevant for a first community approach to understand public opinion on renewables?

Yes

No, I believe you should have _____

Thank you for your time in considering our questionnaire, we are looking forward to learning more about how we can collaborate with you. We will focus on trying to find the best way to create benefits for the Nundle community in any future renewable energy project.

If you are interested in staying informed about any potential renewable energy project updates and opportunities please either complete your details on this form or alternatively email jamie.c@someva.com.au with your contact details.

Name:

First Name:

Address

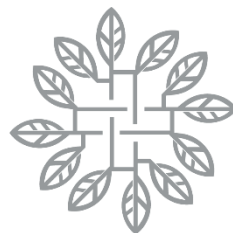
Phone Number:

email address:

Property Description DP/Lot Number (if known)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jamie Chivers
Development Manager
0423 336 345
Someva Pty Limited



SOMEVA

36 threatened fauna species and
5 threatened flora species likely to occur in the proposed project area.

HOGPI engaged a respected local ecologist to review the PEA and he recommended:

1. Minimal clearing of roadside vegetation, proposed project area turbine locations and tracks, and transmission line easement to reduce loss of nesting sites, food sources, shelter, foraging areas, and species decline.
2. Vegetation must be mapped to identify and avoid where endangered ecological communities occur.
3. Before any clearing of roadside vegetation, proposed project area turbine locations, or transmission line easements, sites are to be thoroughly searched for threatened plants and animals.
4. 16 of the threatened animals likely to occur are dependent on tree hollows for nesting, roosting or denning.
5. Clearing of hollow trees is to be avoided and removing tree hollows and compensating with nesting boxes is not supported.
6. Conduct surveys of roadside vegetation, proposed project area turbine locations and tracks, and transmission line easements allowing seasonal timing to identify threatened species likely to occur.
7. Where possible the proposed project area existing and new clearing is to be regenerated to allow for connectivity and funnel birds and bats away from turbines (threatened species recorded, Flame Robins, Greated glider, Spotted-tailed quoll, Koala would benefit from increased connectivity).
8. Obtaining offset land remote to the proposed project area is not supported, nor is cash contribution to the government to obtain offsets.
9. Disturbing streams and adjoining forest must be avoided to preserve Davies Tree Frog occurring from high altitude down to 750m, and Booroolong Frog occurring in low altitude streams up to 750m.
10. Engage independent bat and bird experts over a minimum period of 12 months, recording unique factors at each tower location taking into account changes in topography, elevation, vegetation communities and flora and fauna species. Community to determine independent bat and bird expert, providing feedback to the community before the EIS completed.
11. For each bird species at each tower location study movements to determine migratory paths, seasonal foraging areas, nesting areas, flight heights and flight paths of migratory insects.

12. Survey raptor nesting sites, and study raptor use of wind updrafts on ridge tops and where they use updrafts.
13. Study which other birds use wind updrafts on ridge tops and where they use updrafts.
14. For each bat species at each tower location study seasonal activity and foraging areas, roosting sites, flight heights, use of wind updrafts on ridge tops and identify migratory paths and/or commuting corridors.
15. For each bat species study bat foraging activity as related to wind speed.
16. Study insect use of updrafts on ridge tops.
17. Survey raptor nesting sites, and study raptor use of wind updrafts on ridge tops and where they use updrafts.
18. The 91m set back from 9km boundary with Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve, with up to 20 turbines proposed on its fence line, is not supported.
19. Remnant open forest east and west of the proposed turbine ridgeline, and adjoining Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve with a high abundance of threatened species should be buffered by at least a 500m setback.
20. It is expected that setbacks will be increased to 500m for locations of known threatened bird and bat habitat and nests of raptors and owls and bat roosts.
21. Researchers recommend a distance of at least 80m from the blade tip to the canopy of hollow-bearing trees to reduce blade strike risk to birds and bats.

Table 1. Threatened plants recorded in the Nundle area

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status	Comm. status	Records	Included in EPBC Referral Report and ARUP/Biosis biodiversity surveys?
<i>Eucalyptus oresbia</i>	Small-fruited Mountain Gum	V		31	Y
<i>Eucalyptus rubida subsp. barbigerorum</i>	Blackbutt Candlebark	V	V	2	Y
<i>Chiloglottis platyptera</i>	Barrington Tops Ant Orchid	V,P,2		1	Y
<i>Tasmannia glaucifolia</i>	Fragrant Pepperbush	V	V	1	Y

<i>Tasmannia purpurascens</i>	Broad-leaved Pepperbush	V		12	Y
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Table 2. Threatened fauna likely to occur in the Nundle region divided into likely habitat groups

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status	Comm. status	Likely Habitat	Included in EPBC Referral Report?
<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog	E1,P	E	Low streams	Y
<i>Litoria daviesae</i>	Davies' Tree Frog	V,P		High streams	Y
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	V,P	C	River - Dam	Y
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	V,P		Caves -mines	Y
<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	V,P,3		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	V,P		Low woodlands	N
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	V,P		Low woodlands	Y
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Corben's Long-eared Bat	V,P	V	Low woodlands	Y
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V,P	V	Low woodlands	Y
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E1,P,3	CE	Low woodlands	Y
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	V,P,3		Low woodlands	N
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	V,P		Low woodlands	N
<i>Uvidicolus sphyrurus</i>	Border Thick-tailed Gecko	V,P	V	Low woodlands	Y
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E4A,P	CE	Low woodlands	Y
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	V,P		Forests & woodlands	Y
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	V,P,3		Forests & woodlands	N
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	V,P,3		Forests & woodlands	Y
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	V,P		Forests & woodlands	Y
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V,P	V	Forests & woodlands	Y
<i>Calyptrorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-	V,P,2		High forests	Y

	Cockatoo				
<i>Ninox strenna</i>	Powerful Owl	V,P,3		High forests	Y
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	V,P,3		High forests	Y
<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	Olive Whistler	V,P		High forests	Y
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	V,P		High forests	Y
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	V,P		High forests	Y
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V,P	E	High forests	Y
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	P	V	High forests	Y
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	V,P		High forests	Y
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V,P		High forests	Y
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V,P		High forests	Y

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Wind's growing role in regional Australia



FAST FACTS ON AUSTRALIAN WIND POWER

Australia's 82 operational wind farms are delivering significant financial and social benefits to their host communities.

- ≈ Wind farm construction has delivered an economic boost of almost \$4 billion to regional Australia—over half of this in the last five years. Wind farms under construction now are injecting a further \$1.6 billion in economic activity into the regional economy.
- ≈ The 2GW of new wind farm capacity currently under construction have created an estimated 1,950 direct local jobs and a further 4,500 indirect jobs in local businesses that supply to the projects.
- ≈ Across the 25-year life span of Australia's existing wind farms and wind farms under construction, an estimated \$10.5 billion could be delivered to host communities.

Sharing these benefits equitably with local host communities ensures these projects generate not just much-needed clean energy, but also strengthen the social and economic health of regional Australia.

For the first time, *Building Stronger Communities: Wind's growing role in regional Australia* presents a list of wind farm Community Enhancement Funds across the nation and illustrates the direct and indirect financial and social benefits to Australia's regional communities from wind power.

Between \$19 and \$21.5 million goes directly into regional communities every year through payments to host landholders and wind farm Community Enhancement Funds (CEFs). With fourteen more wind farms under construction, that annual figure will increase to between \$30 and \$32.5 million.

From 2019, Community Enhancement Funds will make available \$2.5 million annually for community projects. A diverse range of other benefit sharing mechanisms will see additional payments go to neighbouring landholders, local councils and community shareholders.

If the 70-plus wind farms in the development pipeline are constructed, more than \$7 million could flow into regional communities through CEFs alone each year.

Wind farms are playing an increasingly important role in regional communities. With the right Federal and State policy settings, wind farms, and other renewable energy projects, can become an even stronger part of regional community life.

As Australia builds enough new wind power to meet the 2020 Renewable Energy Target and the rapidly falling cost of wind energy drives new installation, regional Australia should continue to benefit.

However, the current National Energy Guarantee (NEG) is unlikely to create a stable investment environment for renewable energy projects and could leave regional areas out in the cold.



JOBS AND
INVESTMENT
IN RENEWABLE
ENERGY
BY STATE

THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM FOR LARGE-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

(PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR FINANCIALLY COMMITTED)

395
Megawatts
\$945m
Investment
500
Jobs

WA

NT

2260
Megawatts
\$3119m
Investment
2310
Jobs

SA

262
Megawatts
\$580m
Investment
358
Jobs

VIC

4
Meg
\$8
Inve
1
J

QL

N

* As at 15 March 2019

LE

45
Megawatts
33m
Investment
70
Jobs

4941
Megawatts
\$10,003m
Investment
4681
Jobs

3800
Megawatts
\$4714m
Investment
2320
Jobs

3140
Megawatts
\$5034m
Investment
2894
Jobs

D

ISW

TAS

TOTALS

14,841
Megawatts

\$24.5b
Investment

13,233
Jobs