

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hills of Gold Windfarm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

**Wednesday, 1 April 2020**

Held VIA Dial-in Teleconference

**Members Present:** Jamie Chivers (Wind Energy Partners); Mike Stranger (Wind Energy Partners); Sandra Agudelo (Wind Energy Partners); Bruce Moore; Ian Worley; Michael Chamberlain; Margaret Schofield; Megan Trousdale (Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group Representative); John Krsulja (Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Representative)

**Apologies:** Peter Schofield; Kay Burns (Tamworth Regional Council); Donna Ausling (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Christine Robinson (Upper Hunter Shire Council)

**Independent Chair:** David Ross

**Secretary:** Corinne Culbert

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Who to Present</b>
1. Introductions and Apologies	David Ross
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests	David Ross and All
3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting	David Ross
4. Previous Minutes	David Ross
5. Correspondence	All
6. Update on Proposal	WEP
7. General Business	All
8. Next Meeting	All

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	<p><b>Introduction and Apologies</b></p> <p>Meeting commenced at 6:30pm.</p> <p>David outlined the ground rules for running the meeting via teleconference. Before asking questions, please pause to prevent unnecessary interruptions. When asking a question, firstly identify yourself.</p> <p>Discussed apologies and having an alternate where necessary.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests</b></p> <p>David advised that he was paid a fee to chair the meeting as is Corinne for taking the meeting minutes.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Business Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>WEP to come back to the CCC with the full correct Lot numbers listed. These amendments are to be shared with the CCC.</p>	WEP to advise correct Lot numbers.
4.	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes were issued in draft form and then in final form after the last meeting. It was also noted that the minutes can be reviewed via the HOG website under the community page.</p> <p>Minutes to be reissued with the Agenda before the upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Questioned why number 4 “Previous Minutes” is after 3 “Business Arising”. The CCC is requesting they be swapped around. While the current format complies with the CCC guidelines, David is happy to swap the items around.</p> <p>The Barnard River Wild Dog Management Plan was scheduled to be finalised on 10 February. It was advised by a community member that the relevant committee are yet to meet to sign the document. It is going forward but still pending.</p> <p>It was agreed by all in attendance at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that the Previous Minutes were true and correct.</p>	<p>DR to change agenda template so that numbers 4. &amp; 3. are swapped around.</p> <p>DR to attach the previous minutes with the upcoming meeting agenda.</p>
5.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>Raised in Agenda Item 3 (C) Transport Route Assessment. Observed by a community member that report requested but not yet received. Advised by Jamie that what has been assessed to date covers several route options. There will be a lot more information available to the CCC once the traffic and transport assessments are conducted. It is proposed that information will be provided in August 2020 once complete.</p> <p>Community member noted that, at the CCC meeting held on 18 September, on pages 32, 33 &amp; 34 of the presentation that a desktop survey was undertaken on 18 June 2019 by specialist transport contractors. The CCC would like to be provided with the preliminary transport surveys that have already been undertaken. Jamie advised that Traffic and Transport are still to undertake their surveys and thereafter a preferred route will be advised. Upgrade details are unable to be provided until it is finalised.</p> <p>Letter from Teresa Eather of HOGPI. Complaint made against the social and visual assessment. Regarding the timing and delivery of the turbine layout. Disappointed as to the timing of receiving the information. Mike noted that a response is in the process and forthcoming. A response to HOGPI and shared to CCC by end of next week and will be a response to the various points raised within the letter.</p> <p>Email from Anthony Ko to a committee member. He outlined that the Wind Energy Guidelines recognise that there are circumstances that may require further visual assessment investigations 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 3km from the nearest turbines.</p> <p>Subsequently, a community member asked what is the methodology for the visual assessments? What sites are identified for the montages? Jamie responded that viewpoints outside 3km will be assessed. Feedback taken from the community and surveys have been undertaken. A list of public places where photo montages were requested has been provided through surveys and consultation. Considering residences and public viewpoints outside of 3km will be undertaken. Opportunities for these photo montages to be shared will be available.</p> <p>A request was made by a member for the CCC to be provided with a list of where these locations will be. Mike noted that in April preliminary photo montages will be provided based upon some selected locations advised to WEP by the community. A list will be available to the CCC.</p>	<p>WEP to respond to HOGPI letter by this time next week.</p> <p>WEP to advise CCC of list of photo montage locations.</p>
6.	<p><b>Update on Proposal</b></p> <p>Agreed to send presentations out as soon as possible before meetings so the CCC can review. Hard copy of presentation to be mailed to one of the members.</p> <p>Noted that Noise and Vibration will be discussed.</p> <p><b>a. Project Update Presentation</b></p>	<p>WEP to provide hard copy of future presentations to a member</p>

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	<p>Site Visit undertaken on 11 February 2020 over two visits. Northern and Eastern portions visited. Locations for construction pointed out.</p> <p>Requested by committee members that a revised layout of the 78 turbines include highlighting as to where the concrete batching and substations will be located and have them annexed to these minutes. Indicative locations can be advised. Jamie observed that an indicative crane hard stand for turbines is 30 by 50 metres. A number of studies including geotech to be undertaken to confirm specific sizes and areas. Still unknowns as further investigations are required.</p> <p>Community Survey Response – CCC raised that the timing for survey was not ideal. It was not an ideal time given the recent bushfires and therefore not a priority for the community to complete. As well as being over the Christmas and New Year period. CCC requested that it be undertaken again particularly given everyone is at home and has time. WEP advised that the surveys are still coming in and being reviewed. The survey can still be downloaded off the website. Suggested by the CCC that there is an extended deadline to complete the survey. Mike said that was reasonable and it will be communicated. CCC requesting the survey be extended to Woolomin, Dungowan and Piallamore given the transport route.</p> <p>COVID restrictions will have some impact on the studies to be undertaken and this is being determined.</p> <p>CEF Workshop undertaken on 26 February 2020. Outcome and summary outlined within slide. Mike was appreciative of the good feedback received during the workshop. CEF design being prepared to share with Councils and the CCC. Likely over the next couple of weeks and following that there will be an opportunity for further feedback from those who attended the workshop. CCC requested before publishing documents whether what is discussed is realistic. A community member noted that no clarification has been received whether the \$2500 per turbine will remain the same under the new proposed layout. Would this fund a retirement home for instance? Community has high expectations of what this fund will provide. Flyer distributed into the community and should be included. The numbers of the turbines seem to be quite varied. The timing of the workshop wasn't ideal, observed the community member.</p> <p>Jamie noted that the layout is for 78 turbines and confirmed that yes it is \$2,500 per turbine. WEP is maintaining their commitment. A further commitment announcement will be made next week regarding an additional Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program. Friends of the Windfarm Group has been established and WEP isn't providing them with any information additional to what is provided to others who request it. There has been an event created by them and a request has been sent out for WEP to talk there. No information would be provided by WEP to that group that hasn't been advised to the CCC. The neighbour program will be released via the WEP website.</p> <p>Slide 11 – Jamie discussed recent media attention on the proposal that involved committee members. The opinions shared in the member do not reflect the truth. WEP want to make it clear that no turbines are to be located in town. Jamie noted that it was claimed that the CCC are dragging the chain and comments relating to claims that the project would cause soil to fill up the creeks. A community member identified themselves as the person who was interviewed. It was noted by</p>	<p>WEP to mark-up the site layout where the concrete batching, substations, battery storage facility and transmission line route as well as accommodation will be located.</p> <p>WEP to extend the survey deadline.</p>



Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>them that they did not instigate the interview, that the interviewer was talking broadly when saying that there would be turbines “in town”.</p> <p>Media Policy – reminder only David to talk on behalf of the CCC though that wasn’t an issue in this specific situation.</p> <p><b>b. Discussion On-Site Layout</b></p> <p>Slide 12 – WEP has provided information and collected more information to provide the preliminary turbine layout. And it is preliminary as it is constantly being updated as further information comes to hand.</p> <p>WEP have attempted to show as clearly as possible the turbine layout.</p> <p>Another site visit requested by community members so more of the layout can be reviewed. To particularly incorporate the western portion. Due to COVID 19 a way forward would be to contact Mike to see what can be arranged. Pencilling in a September 2020 visit at this stage.</p> <p>In response to a question, Jamie noted that the set back from the start of Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve is 185m. That is the buffer to the turbine.</p> <p>The EIS is scheduled to go on exhibition in December 2020.</p> <p>A community member noted that the location of Hanging Rock Village on the layout is out by a few km and Crawney is noted as a town but isn’t a town. WEP has noted that the information is downloaded from mapping software and could be corrected.</p> <p>In response to a series of questions from the members, Mike noted that the site boundary in red is based on the lot and deposited plan boundaries. 7 landowners have signed up to the proposal.. There are Crown Roads unformed and formed around the site. To the south are unformed and to the north are formed Crown Roads. A community member explained that the watershed is the Aboriginal boundary which is the tip and top of the ridge. Is the watershed affected?</p> <p>Will a survey be undertaken to determine legal boundaries? Fence lines don’t always follow the correct survey. WEP will undertake surveys to finalised the boundary locations. WEP aren’t worried about where fence lines are located but more so who owns the land.</p> <p>CCC requested locations of noise loggers as part of the Noise Assessment.</p>	<p>Further Site Visit to be considered when possible.</p> <p>Review map for accuracy.</p> <p>WEP to review whether the watershed is affected</p> <p>WEP to provide feedback on when</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>Members of the committee asked who made the decision on the placement of the turbines? Jamie responded that input came from a number of consultants namely biodiversity (Biosis), ARUP, heritage (K &amp; C) as well as landowners. Constraints were provided where they cannot go. A professional wind engineer (Wind Pioneers based in India and the UK) placed the turbines.</p> <p>A member asked if these consultants set foot on the site, in particular the wind engineer? WEP have advised that the wind engineer is not required to set foot. The consultants who provided inputs have attended the site.</p> <p>Feedback to be provided as to when surveys undertaken re drought etc.</p> <p><b>c. Group Discussion on Key Areas to Focus on for 2020 Meetings</b></p> <p>It was decided that the visual montages and assessment and neighbour benefit sharing program would be a key discussion topic for the next meeting.</p>	<p>surveys were undertaken.</p>
7.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>When will Neighbour Agreements or compensation to someone not hosting a turbine be advised. What is the timeline to when landowners will be approached? WEP is working of the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program and broad compensation. Jamie noted that dates should be announced within the next week. WEP will approach the individuals. Eligibility criteria is going to be publicly available and presented to the CCC and entire community. Definitive timeline requested by CCC.</p> <p>A community member wanted the committee to know that Supplementary SEARs were issued on 23 December 2019. It is responding to the EPBC Act referral. To be annexed to these minutes. Target species surveys to be undertaken whether the species are actually there or “might” be there. Anthony Ko confirmed that the whole area affected is included within this Supplementary SEARs.</p> <p>Information regarding visual impact from aviation lighting from another CCC to be annexed to these minutes.</p> <p>A member highlighted that there was attendance by non committee members on the site visit, which included the land owners and there was only one representative from the Council. Further, on the second site visit a community member who is not on the committee was present. WEP confirmed that the land owners were in attendance as it was their property. Regarding the community member who is not on the committee, it was an invitation by the landowners. This was not an invitation extended by WEP.</p> <p>A committee member believed that the landowners were not constructive. When does the lease hold from WEP commence? That cannot be disclosed as that is under commercial confidence.</p>	<p>WEP to confirm timeline for contact under “Neighbour Program”.</p> <p>WEP to respond.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>For the record, on 11 October 2019 Jamie sent an email to HOGP – proposed workshop information session with HOGP. Offer came through after WEP had lodged their EPBC so no point in having a meeting but suggested all the community attend such a meeting. No meeting was knocked back just a suggestion to include everyone. Copy email annexed hereto.</p> <p>All agreed that the teleconference went well. This is the best way forward at present given the social distancing requirements.</p> <p>Approach Councils to see if there are alternate options for attendance.</p>	<p>David to contact Council's</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Teleconference requested for <b>Wednesday, 6 May 2020 at 6.30pm</b></p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.15pm</p>	

**Appendix 1: Actions**

<b>Page No</b>	<b>Action No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>
2	1	WEP to advise correct Lot numbers as part of EPBC Referral.	1 April 2020
2	2	DR to change agenda template so that numbers 4. & 3. are swapped around.	1 April 2020
2	3	DR to attach the previous minutes with the upcoming meeting agenda.	1 April 2020
3	4	WEP to respond to letter from HOGPI by this time next week.	1 April 2020
3	5	WEP to advise CCC of list of photo montage locations.	1 April 2020
3	6	WEP to provide hard copy of future presentations to a member	1 April 2020
3	7	WEP to mark-up the site layout where the concrete batching, substations, battery storage facility and transmission line route as well as accommodation will be located.	1 April 2020
4	8	WEP to extend the survey deadline.	1 April 2020
4	9	Further Site Visit to be considered when possible.	1 April 2020
5	10	WEP to review map for accuracy.	1 April 2020
5	11	WEP to review whether the watershed is affected.	1 April 2020
6	12	WEP to provide feedback on when surveys were undertaken.	1 April 2020
6	13	WEP to confirm timeline for contact under "Neighbour Program".	1 April 2020
6	14	WEP to respond to email dated 11 October 2019 between Jamie and HOPG.	1 April 2020
6	15	David to contact Council's about alternate options to ensure they have someone in attendance.	1 April 2020



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**Community Consultative Committee  
March 2020**



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# Meeting Agenda



- 1. Introduction and apologies**
- 2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests**
- 3. Business arising from previous meeting**
- 4. Previous minutes**
- 5. Correspondence**
- 6. Update on Proposal**
  - Site visit summary
  - Community Survey #2 Summary
  - Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) workshop summary
  - Hills of Gold project in the Media
  - EIS timetable
  - Updated 78 WTG layout
  - Landscape and Visual Update
  - Noise and vibration Update
  - Socioeconomic Update
- 7. General Business**
- 8. Next Meeting**

# Review/Actions from December CCC

Page No	Action No	Follow up Action	Date	Result of Follow up Action
2	18	MS to provide letter as to why access was denied to some members.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Completed. Letter provided to CCC via email 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020. (Letter included as exhibit)
2	19	DR & MS to prepare email relating to Site Visit ASAP.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Site visit completed via 2 hosted site visits on the 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Site Visit re-visited later in Update on Proposal section)
3	20	WEP to update the website to reflect to accurate population for Tamworth.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	HoG website update completed 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec ( <a href="https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/news-and-updates">https://www.hillsofgoldenergy.com/news-and-updates</a> ) and Scoping Report on NSW DPIE website updated 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 ( <a href="https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9701">https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9701</a> )
3	21	WEP to create letter and survey for pre CEF Workshop letter box drop	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Completed. Community Survey #2 was distributed via letter box drop 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. The survey included a question relating to the community's view on priorities for the Community Enhancement Fund. Update: 421 additional surveys sent out to Wallabadah, Barry, Pages Creek, Crawney and Timor on week commencing 16 <sup>th</sup> March. (Community Survey re-visited later in Update on Proposal section)
4	22	MS to prepare figure for the Liverpool Range Windfarm.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Completed. Liverpool Range newsletter provided to CCC via email 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020, with up to 800 direct jobs during construction and up to 47 full-time staff during the 25 plus years of operation. (Newsletter included as exhibit)



# Review/Actions from December CCC



Page No	Action No	Follow up Action	Date	Result of Follow up Action
6	23	WEP to make reference within the EPBC as outlined at this meeting.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	<p>Completed. Update sent out to CCC via email 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, following response from DoEE. EPBC Act referral documentation will not be updated. The information was sufficient to be able to be considered in DoEE’s referral decision, for the proposal to be determined as Controlled Action and subsequent assessment by an accredited process under the NSW <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>.</p> <p>They have recommended that the updated information be presented for public consultation via the assessment process.</p> <p>The below information will be included in all future project documentation generated and provided for public consultation during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the wind farm development corridor as a bushfire prone area, as amended and in line with the designation given by the Rural Fire Service;</li> <li>• Identification of applicable Lots in Deposited Plans, and;</li> <li>• Identification of Ben Halls Gap as a Nature Reserve and Crawney Pass as a National Park</li> </ul>
6	24	Amendments by ARUP to be shared with CCC	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Relates to Action No 23. See above response.



# Review/Actions from December CCC



Page No	Action No	Follow up Action	Date	Result of Follow up Action
6	25	WEP to add project name feedback to letter box drop survey.	Meeting 3 – 10 Dec 2019	Completed, included in Community Survey #2. (Community Survey re-visited later in Update on Proposal section).
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	<p>In progress. Update sent out to CCC via email 21st January 2020.</p> <p>This action aligns with a SEAR's requirement to <i>"identify potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires / use of bushfire prone land, including the risks that a wind farm would cause bush fire and any potential impacts on the aerial fighting of bush fires and demonstrate compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 (if located on bushfire prone land)"</i>.</p> <p>The SEAR's also requires WEP to consult with RFS as part of the Consultation and Hazard and Risk Assessment process to be included in the EIS. As we anticipate this to be a particular topic of interest by the community given the recent fire activity in the region, please see "Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations" document prepared by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited. We are presenting this document for background information only, and it is not intended to replace formal consultation with the local RFS and fire fighting authorities as part of the planning process, which will be ongoing throughout 2020.</p> <p>(Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations document included as exhibit)</p>



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Update on Proposal



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# Site Visit Summary



Date of visit	Notes on visit
<p>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. First tour: 3 -5pm Second tour: 5-7pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The site visit was an agreed action arising from June 2019 CCC meeting.</li><li>• Purpose: provide CCC members and alternates opportunity to inspect wind farm development corridor and facilitate greater understanding of the site, wind farm development, planning and design optimization process.</li><li>• Invitation to all HoG CCC members and alternates.</li><li>• 2 x two-hour site visits to accommodate work schedules, avoid daytime temperatures, allow open discussion in smaller groups and safe access to areas of interest.</li><li>• Visited northern/eastern portion of the wind farm development corridor via Morrison's Gap Road, including key viewpoints of Hanging Rock, Nundle, Head of the Peel, Nundle Creek and Ben Hall's Gap National Park/State Forest.</li><li>• Key discussion points: potential ancillary infrastructure locations, turbine foundations and civil earthworks, wind resource information, meteorological mast operation, biodiversity surveys and development schedule.</li></ul>

# Community Survey #2 Results Summary



Question	Response
Community Enhancement Fund Priorities	<p>The priorities cover events, tourism, community buildings, community programs, and infrastructure. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nundle Go for Gold</li> <li>• Great Nundle Dog Race</li> <li>• Country Picnic</li> <li>• Australia Day</li> <li>• Nundle Information Outlet</li> <li>• Walking/Bike Tracks</li> <li>• Golf Course</li> <li>• Promotion of Nundle</li> <li>• Sport &amp; Rec Club</li> <li>• Swimming club/pool</li> <li>• Medical Facilities</li> <li>• Old Church Boutique</li> </ul>
Changing the name from Hills of Gold	14/34 responded yes for name change (41%)
Do you think the Project will have a significant visual impact on your property?	17/34 responded yes (50%) to concerns of interrupted views from properties
Are there any additional Public viewpoints to consider for visual montages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nundle Bowling Club</li> <li>• Lindsay Gap Road and Nundle Road Intersection</li> <li>• Dag Sheep station wedding venue</li> <li>• Private property viewpoints</li> </ul>
Please provide information for non-indigenous cultural heritage sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow Gums Forest</li> <li>• Natural habitats, e.g. koala's and other wildlife</li> <li>• School of Arts Building</li> <li>• The Peel Inn</li> <li>• Nundle Cemetery</li> <li>• Wombramurra Station</li> <li>• Nundle Memorial Hall</li> </ul>



# CEF Workshop Details



- The CEF workshop occurred on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 from 5:30-8pm in Nundle Memorial Hall
- Someva representatives: Jamie Chivers, Mike Stranger
- The CCC members present were: John Krsulja, Megan Trousdale, Kay Burnes, Michael Chamberlain, Ian Worley, Donna Ausling, Margaret Schofield, Sam Lobsey
- Alternate members present: Selena Sylvester, Nick Bradford, Teresa Eather, Megan Carberry
- Purpose: To present existing information and integrate views of the community into the key elements of the community enhancement fund in order to develop a draft CEF design.

# CEF Outcomes and Summary

Community Enhancement  
Fund Presentation and  
Summary Notes Attached  
as Exhibit



## CEF Purpose and Objectives

- No maintenance of council related assets
- Projects that improve the environment
- Social and economic benefit to the town
- Upgrades to the community assets
- Improving education
- Enhances wellbeing and lifestyle

## CEF Establishment & Governance

- Broad representation of communities and appropriate involvement of council
- Key roles such as administration, marketing and treasurer
- Transparency and integrity of members is critical
- Process for resolving disputes
- Nomination and voting process discussed
- Ensuring no conflicts of interest

## Fund Eligibility Criteria

- Must have an impact within a 30km radius of the turbines
- Addresses key community needs and not that of individuals and businesses
- Demonstration of the requirement for funds and legitimacy of applying
- Project feasibility and the degree to which the project is already happening in the community
- Applications display methods to improve the community

# Hills of Gold Project in the Media



- As a member of a CCC committee the member's code of conduct agreement within the CCC guidelines emphasis accountability and transparency when discussing information to the public.
- A statement made by Ben Fordham on 2GB talkback radio, *"There is a private developer, Wind Energy Partners wants to whack a \$600 million-dollar wind farm in the middle of the town, they would have 98 wind turbines standing 200m tall, running along 20km between Nundle and a spot called Hanging Rock"*
- *It was then confirmed by a CCC member that "The actual proposal is the ridgeline above Nundle."*
- Fact Check: The turbines will be located south of both Nundle and Hanging Rock and won't run through the town. The closest turbine to Hanging Rock is 5.42km away and to Nundle is 8.42km away. The furthest turbine from Hanging Rock is 19km and to Nundle is 20.2km.
- The member of the CCC stated:
  - "We have this community consultative process and they're kind of dragging the chain on this, they have told us nothing".
  - "No hydrological studies have been done. They have to dig deep and dig into the mountain and then you have all the soils that flows down through the water catchment starts to silt up all your creeks"
- As discussed in the September 2019 and December 2019 CCC Hydrological studies will be completed as part of the impact assessment. As discussed today we have created setbacks of 40m for turbines from any creeks and waterways.



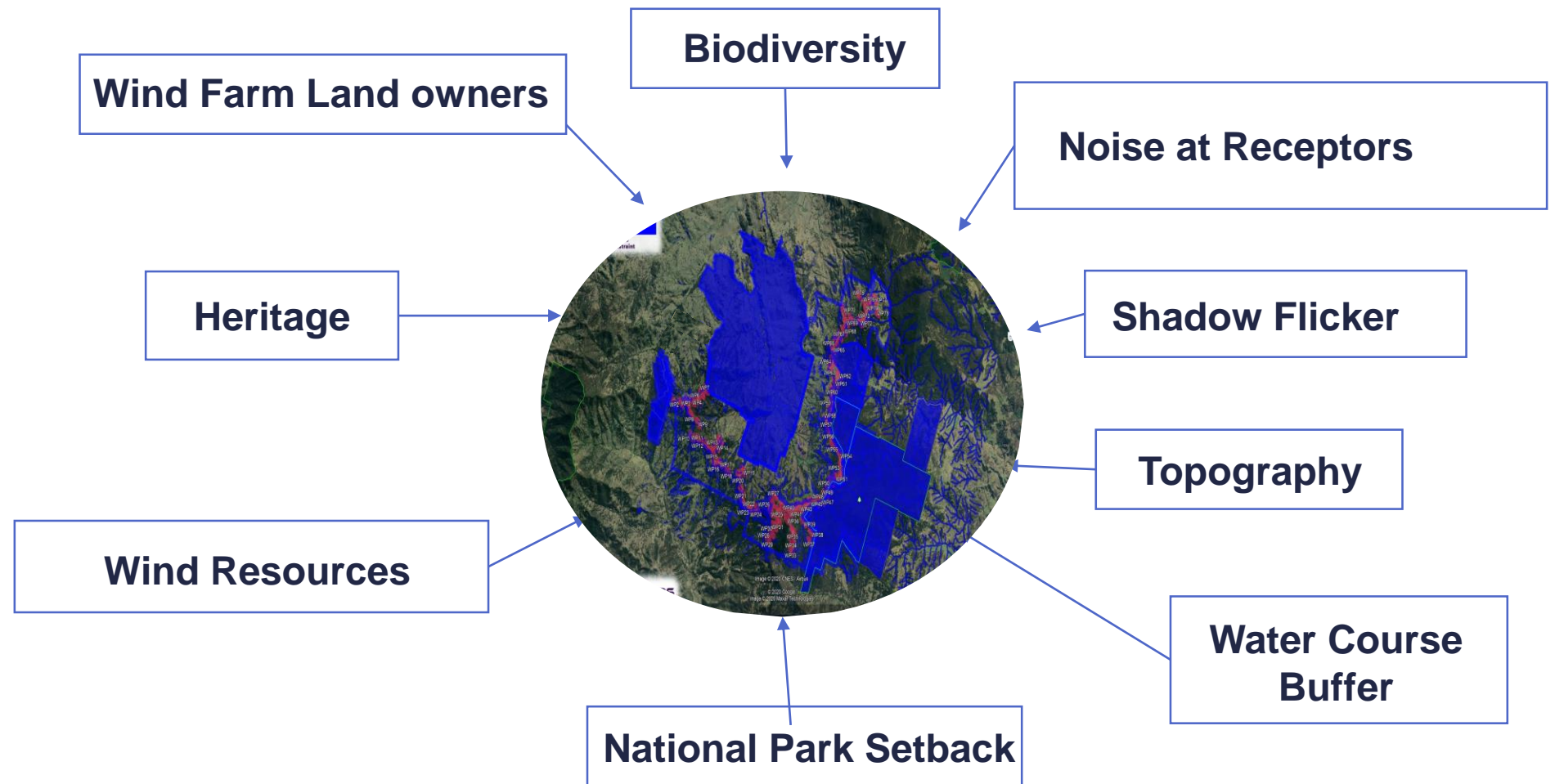


# Updated WTG Layout

*How did we arrive at this preliminary optimized layout?*

## Reducing Impacts through Studies and Consultation

- *Through technical consultants we have mapped technical, environmental, social and land variables as well as project constraints.*
- *This allowed us to find an optimized preliminary wind farm layout.*
- *This layout will be further optimized as technical studies progress.*



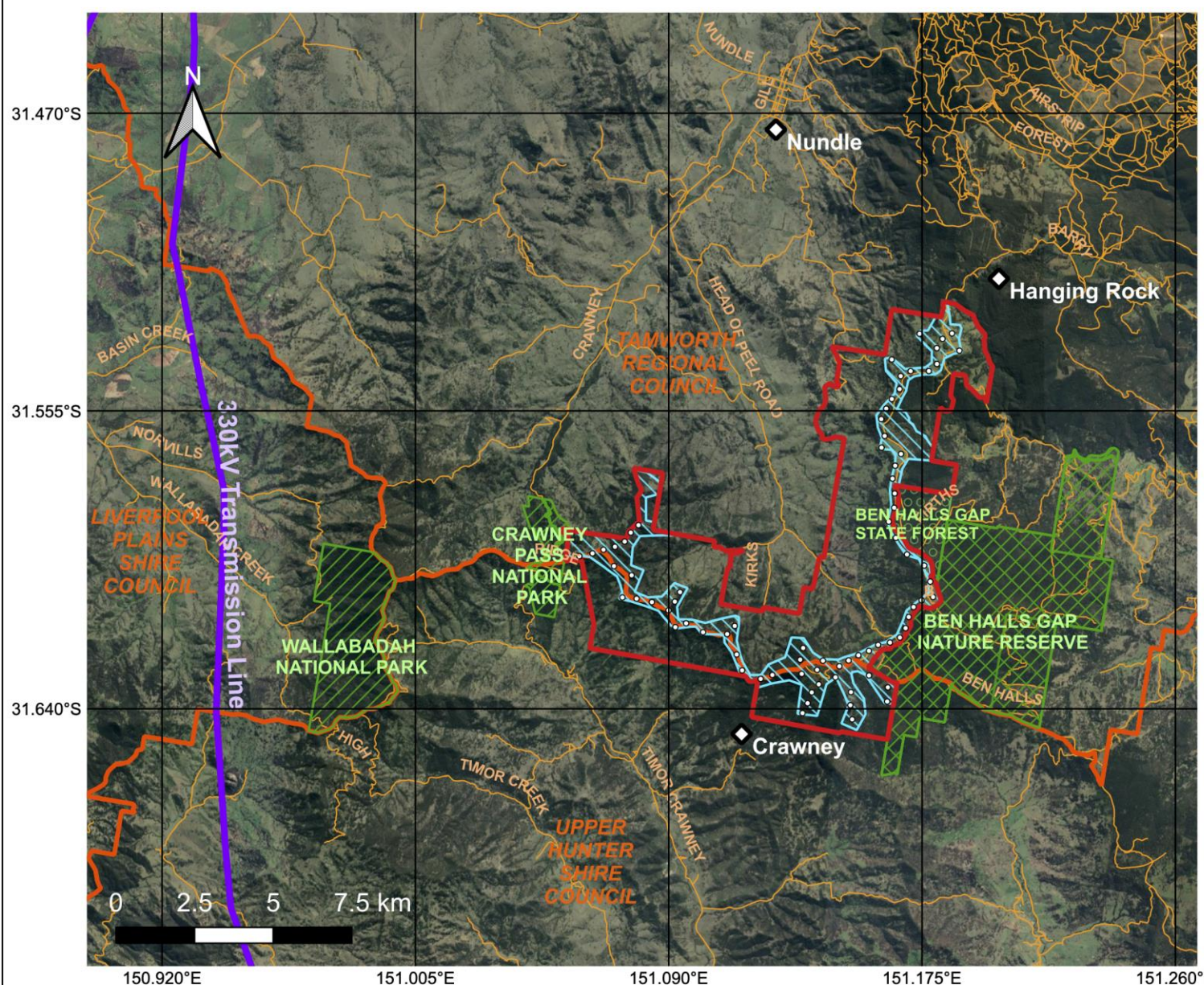
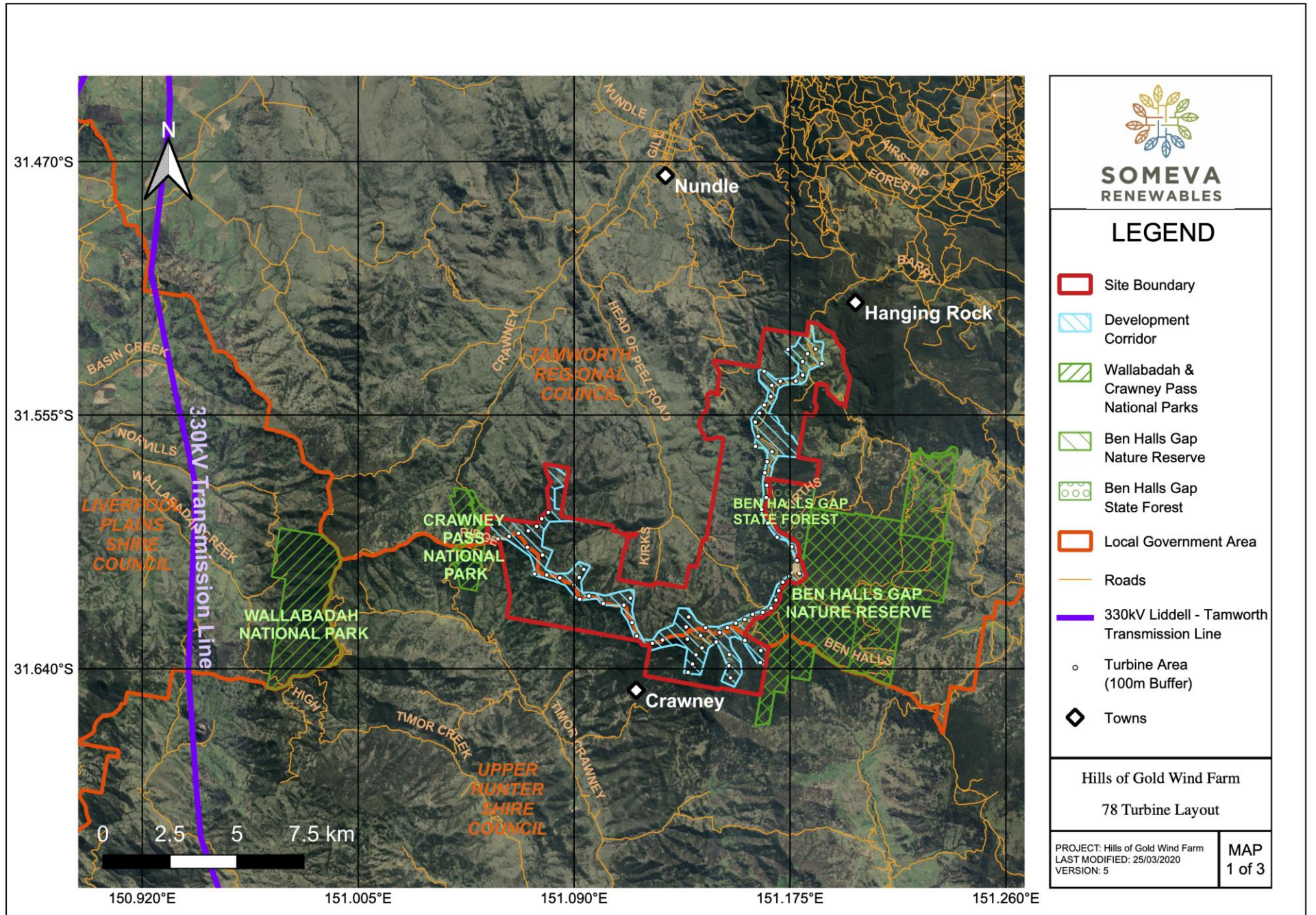
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# Updated 78 WTG Layout

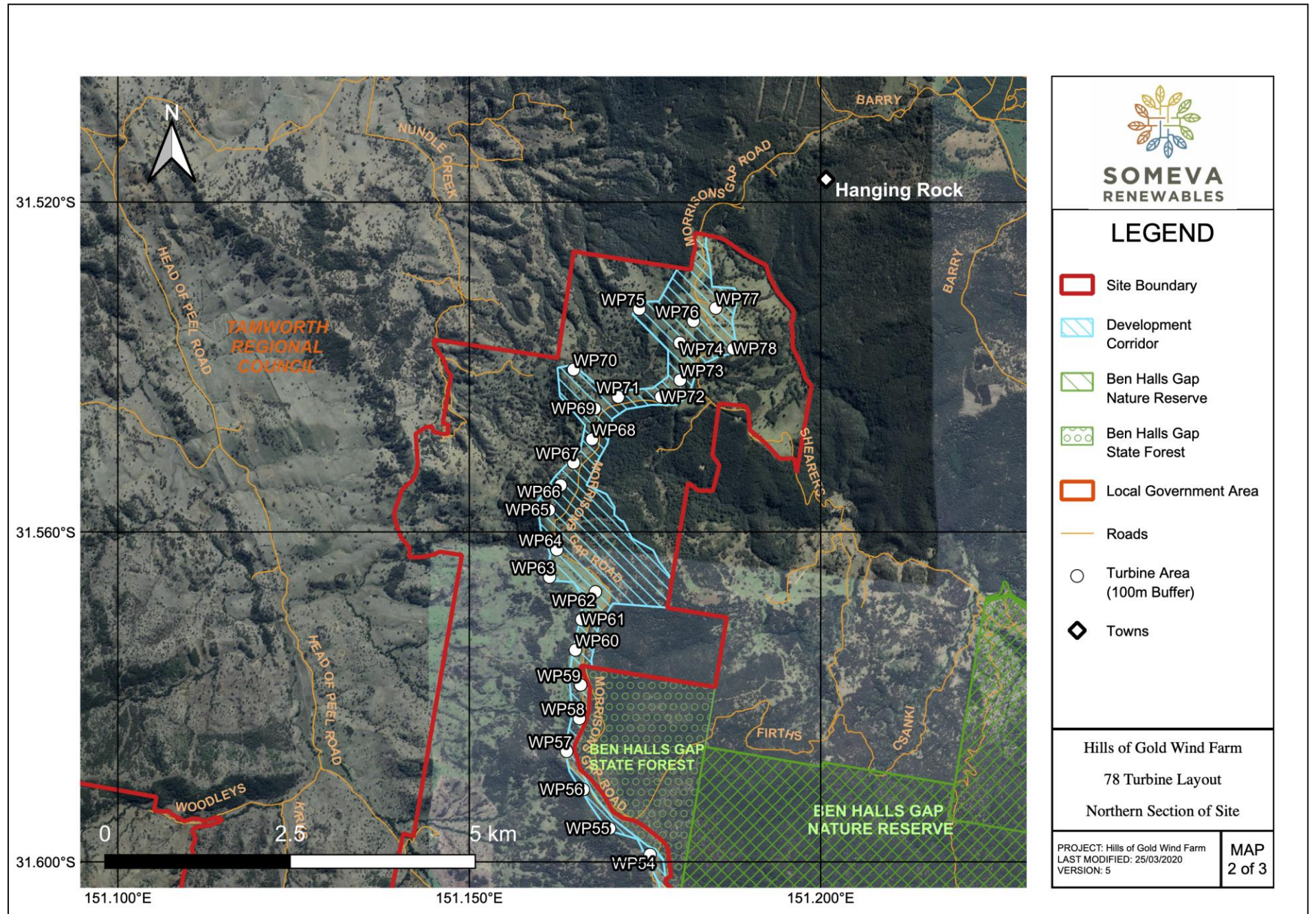


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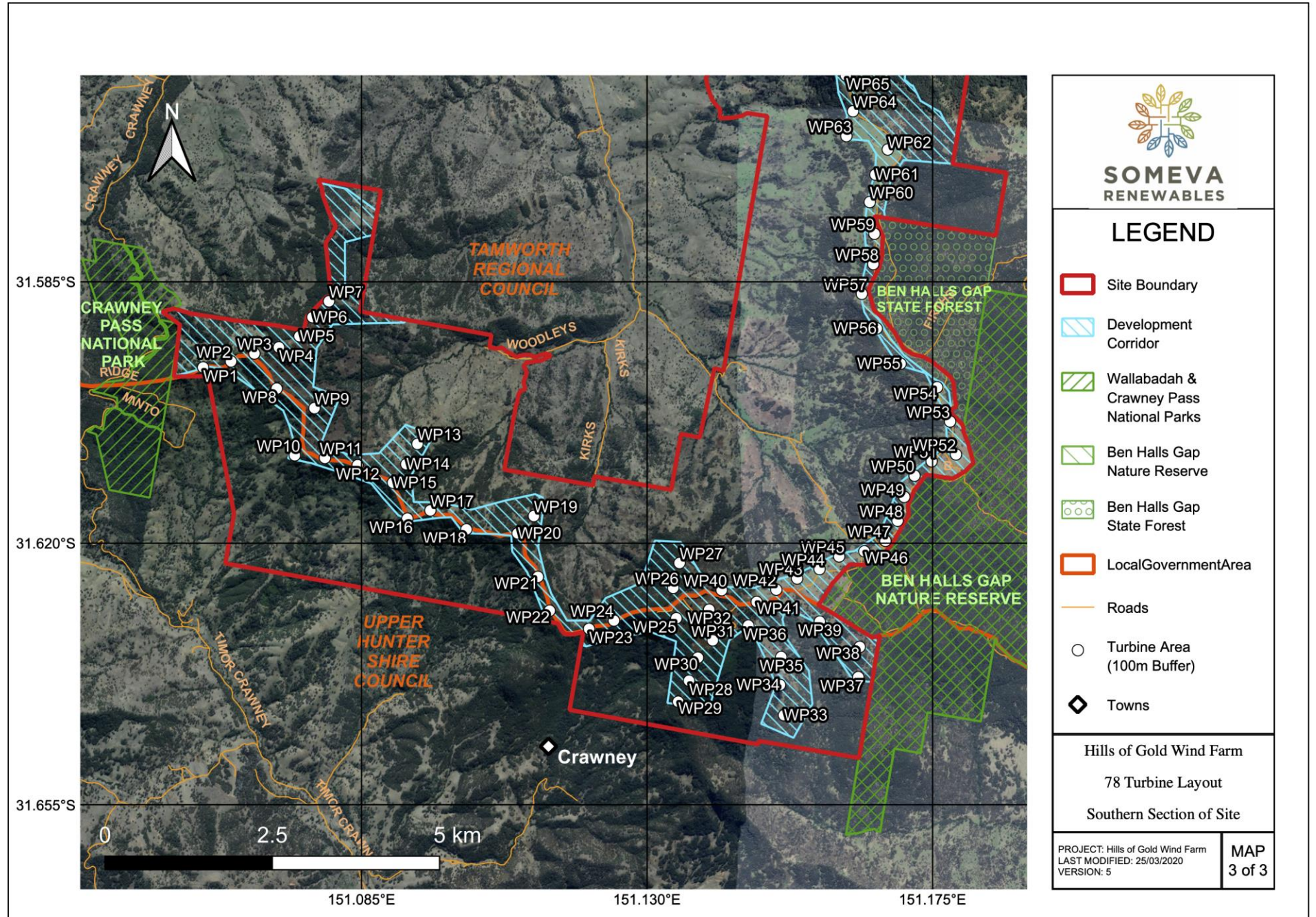
# Updated 78 WTG Layout



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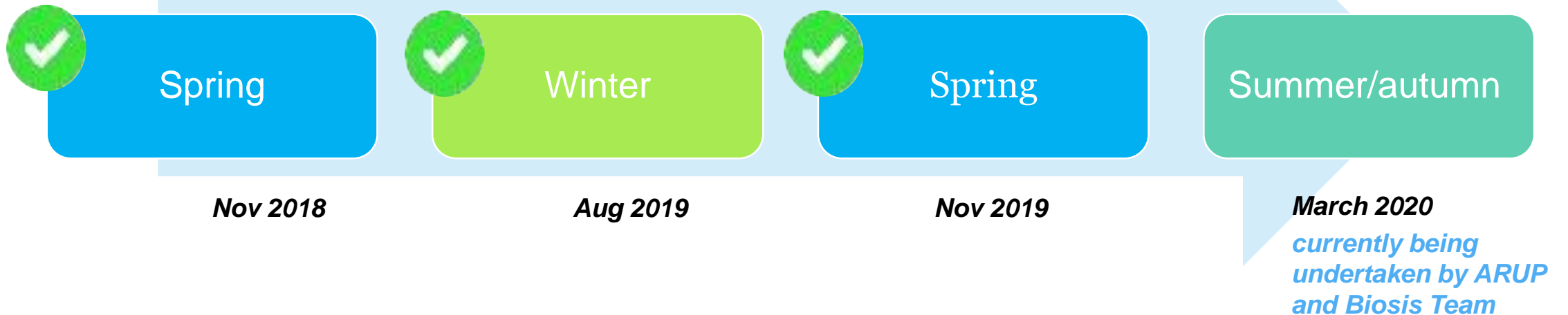


# Updated 78 WTG Layout



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# Biodiversity Update



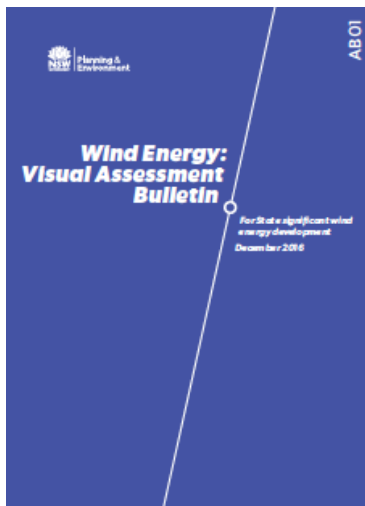
## Next Steps

- ARUP and Biosis team to analyse, compile and update all data that have been gathered up to date.
  - PCT and TEC
- Put together BDAR (Biodiversity Development Assessment Report).



# Landscape and Visual Update

## ERM and Moir Selected to Complete Studies



### Phase 1 Desktop study and preliminary consultation



- Preliminary assessment: Visual Magnitude and Multiple Wind Turbine Tool.
- Preparation of Zone of Visual Influence Diagram (ZVI).
- Consultation of community important viewpoints.
- Likely visual impacts, sensitive areas and potential key viewpoints.

### Phase 2 Field Work and Preliminary Photomontages in Progress



- Ground truth digital terrain model to confirm potential views and further identify potentially impacted areas.
- Detailed photographic survey.
- Direct consultation with community members commenced
- Preliminary photomontages for consultation will be shared in April 2020

### Phase 3 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment



- Visual baseline study:
- Establishes existing landscape and visual conditions
- Scenic quality classes and objectives of each visual influence zone.
- Shadow flicker assessment

### Phase 4 Impact Assessment Report

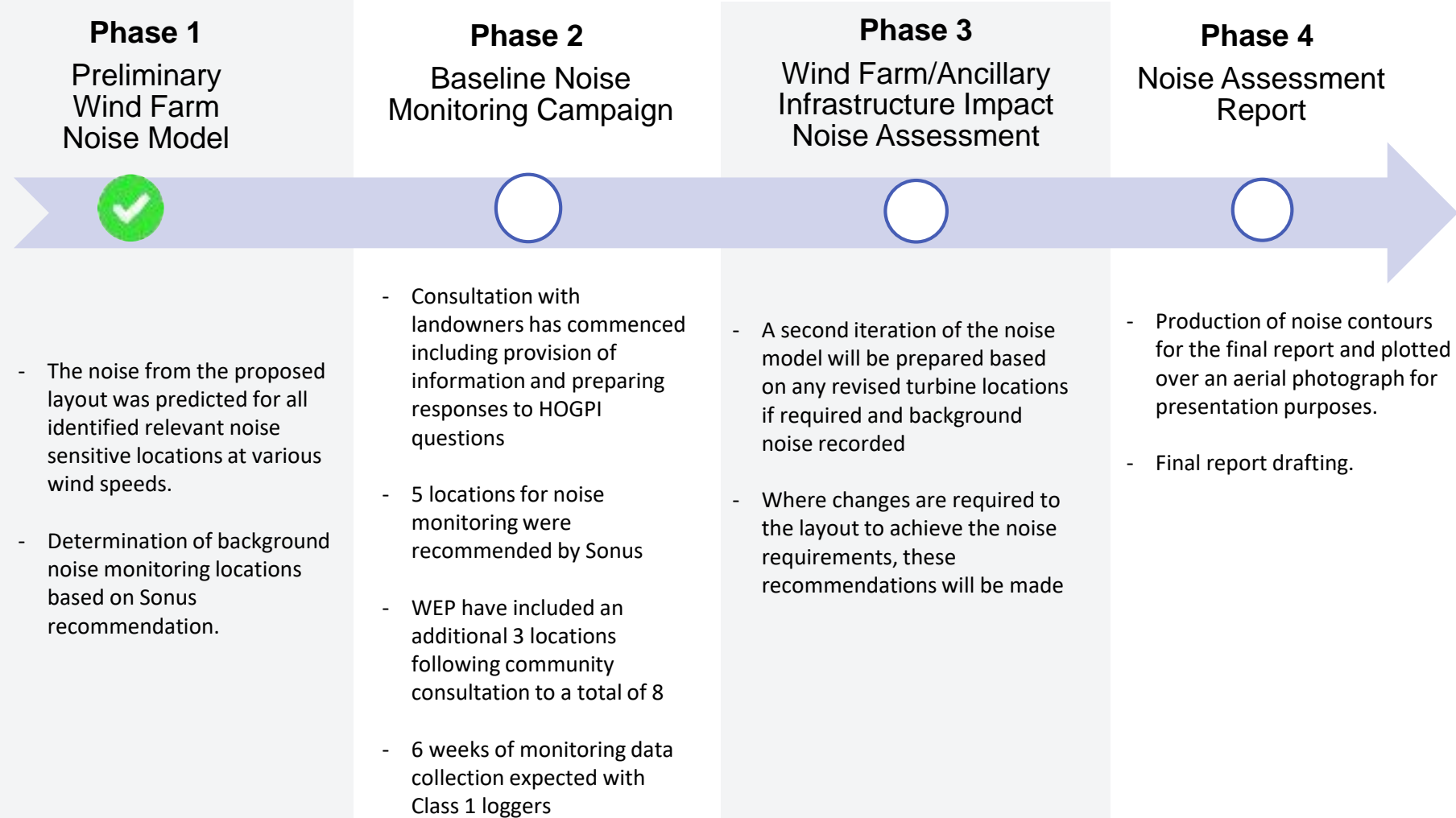
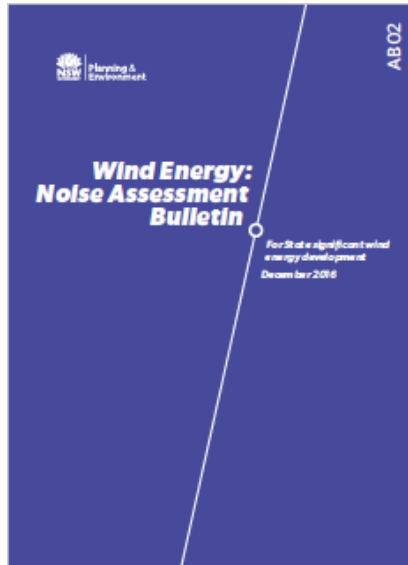


- Preparation of Landscape and Visual final report.

# Noise and Vibration Update



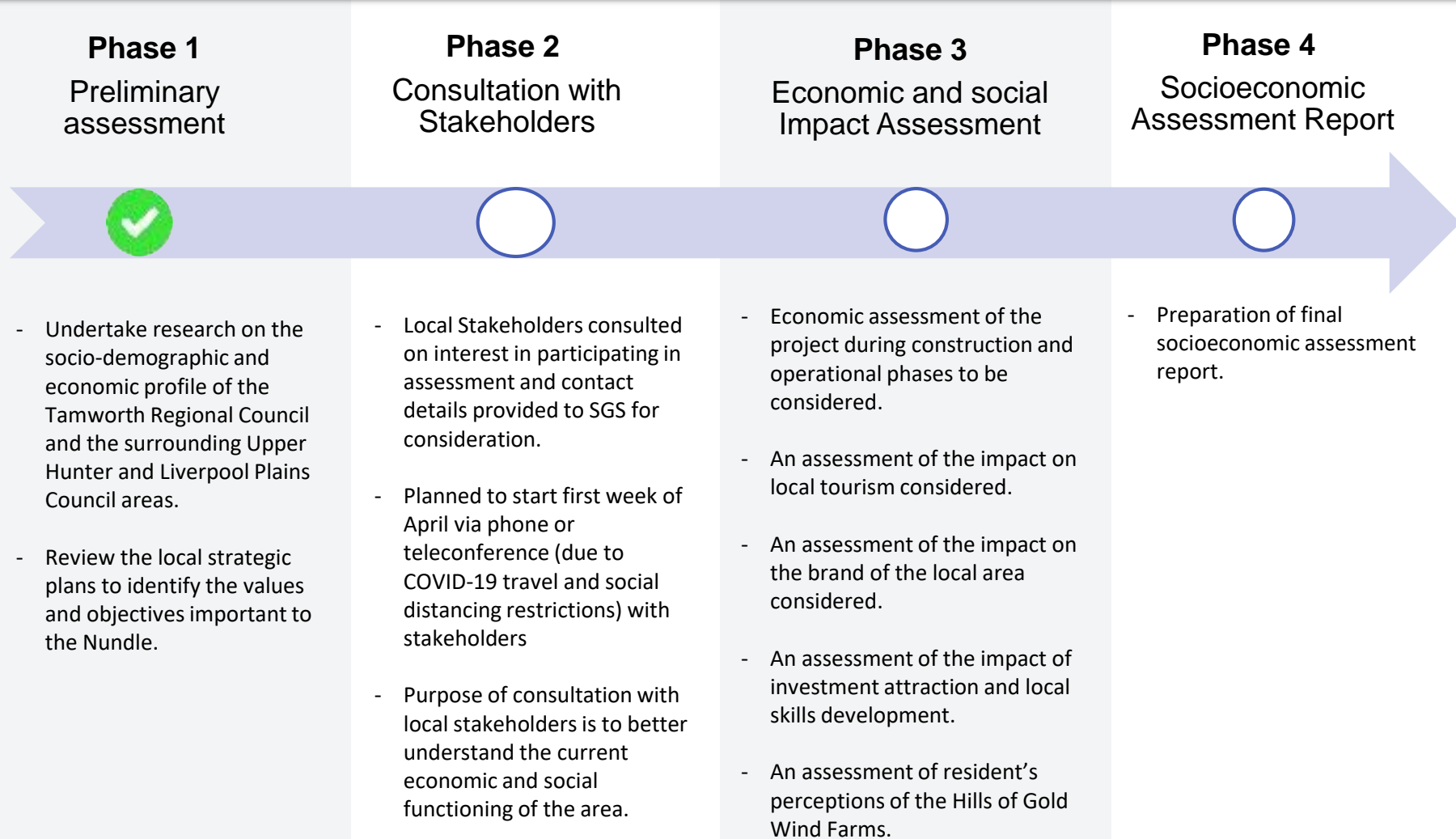
**Selected to Complete Studies**



# Socioeconomic Update



## Selected to Complete Studies





**Thanks !**

**Questions and  
Discussion**



Attachments List:

1. Wind Energy Partners Response to CCC Action No 18 – Denial of access to some CCC members for site visit planned for September 2019
2. Tilt Renewables Liverpool Range Newsletter with Employment Statistics
3. AFAC Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations Guideline
4. Hills of Gold Wind Farm Community Information Sessions Flyer
5. Hills of Gold Community Enhancement Fund Workshop Presentation
6. Hills of Gold Community Enhancement Fund Workshop Summary Notes
7. Someva Renewables response - CCC Meeting Tabled Document Tuesday 10th December
8. Preliminary Updated Wind Turbine Layout
9. Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Letter - Socio-Economic Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment
10. Wind Energy Partners Response to Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Letter - Socio-Economic Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment
11. Wind Energy Partners Response to Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Letter - Socio-Economic Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment attachment - SGS Economics Memorandum
12. Community Enhancement Fund ideas
13. Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment assessment requirements - Hills of Gold Wind Farm (EPBC 2019/8535) (SSD 9679)
14. Hills of Gold CCC Aviation lighting issues March 2020

To Members of the Hills of Gold Community Consultative Committee

1<sup>st</sup> February 2020

**RE: CCC Action No 18 – Denial of access to some CCC members for site visit planned for September 2019**

Dear Hills of Gold CCC members,

As discussed in the December 2019 CCC meeting, and as the minutes reflect, during the initial planning stages of the site visit scheduled for September 2019, a wind farm host landowner was unwilling to provide access to two members of the CCC, and the nominated representatives of the Hills of Gold Preservation Inc and Nundle Business, Tourism and Marketing Groups.

Upon Someva seeking to understand the reasons for the refusal of the 2 members, it was understood those members have been active in opposing the development and that existing relationship of the landowner and the two CCC members had suffered as a result.

However, the host landowner recognized the value of a visit to the wind farm development site for all CCC members, and importance of representation by the nominated stakeholder groups on the site visit.

As was discussed in the December CCC Someva and Wind Energy Partners are committed to an inclusive and transparent CCC and subsequently agreed with the host landowner this importance to follow industry best practice.

Agreement was reached for all CCC members to attend, and a new site visit has been scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Someva trusts this provides sufficient explanation and shows a strong intent for open and transparent access to information. We look forward to the upcoming opportunity to take a tour of the Hills of Gold wind farm development corridor with all CCC members.

Sincerely,



Jamie Chivers  
Managing Director – Wind Energy Partners  
[jamie.c@someva.com.au](mailto:jamie.c@someva.com.au)  
+61 423 336 345  
36-38 Young St  
Sydney NSW 2000



# Liverpool Range Wind Farm

Newsletter  
Edition

1

May  
2019

Tilt Renewables is pleased to announce it has completed the acquisition of the Liverpool Range Wind Farm from Epuron. When fully constructed, the project could add up to 1000 MW of new renewable energy generation to NSW and be one of the largest wind farm projects in Australia.

## Project snapshot

**Turbines**  
Up to 267

**Installed capacity**  
About 1000 MW

**Project investment**  
\$1.5 billion

**Project status**  
Planning and environmental approvals received

**Environmental benefits**  
The project will provide enough clean energy to power more than 500,000 homes and save 2.3 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of removing 750,000 cars from our roads.

**Economic benefits**  
A community fund will operate for the project, providing \$3000 per wind turbine per year for community investment. The project will also generate a massive increase in revenue for local businesses including (but not limited to) accommodation providers, hospitality businesses such as cafes and hotels, service stations and fencing contractors.

**Employment**  
Up to 800 direct jobs during construction and up to 47 full-time staff during the 25 plus years of operation.

## Tilt Renewables

Tilt Renewables is a publicly listed company (ASX/NZE: TLT) with more than 19 years' experience in developing, owning and operating renewable generation assets across Australasia.

Tilt Renewables has several operating assets in both Australia and New Zealand with an installed capacity of more than 630MW and a further project currently being constructed in Victoria with an additional capacity of 336MW.

Tilt Renewables currently has about 2000MW of projects with planning approvals and a total pipeline of about 3000MW of wind, solar, storage and peaking options. This is one of the strongest pipelines in the market.

Our strategic goal is to be the leading renewable energy business in Australasia by more than doubling our current operating renewable generation capacity over the next five years, and then position ourselves for further wind and solar builds. As a company, we do what we say we'll do and value integrity in how we go about our work.

Tilt Renewables is currently constructing the 80-turbine Dundonnell Wind Farm project in Victoria. The project commenced construction in January this year and is expected to be operational in the last quarter of 2020.



## Landowner meetings

Several members of our team recently visited Coolah and Cassilus to conduct a series of landowner and community group meetings.

The response from everyone we met was very encouraging and we will be dropping in again from time to time.



## Where to from here?

Tilt Renewables has acquired the project from Epuron, the company that has been developing the project since 2008.

Across this time, Epuron has obtained the necessary planning consents and environmental approvals for the construction and operation of the project. These approvals and commitments will now be transferred to Tilt Renewables.

We have begun the process of meeting our key stakeholders and are looking forward to developing a community engagement plan to ensure the community is consulted and informed.

The team will soon commence its review of the current wind farm design to ensure the site is best placed to take advantage of the most modern turbine technology. This process of optimisation will ensure that the cost of building the project is minimised and we take full advantage of the wind potential of the site.

Prior to being able to determine a construction date for the project, we will need to secure an offtake agreement for the energy generated by the wind farm and complete several further environmental and heritage studies that are requirements of the development consent.

Construction of the entire project will take up to three years and require about 800 construction personnel. Due to the sheer size of the proposed wind farm, Tilt Renewables will consider developing the project in stages.

Once further information is available about the construction of the project, including timing, Tilt Renewables will actively engage the community to look at workforce accommodation strategies, local business readiness and participation in the project.

In the meantime, if you have any queries about the project or possible business and employment opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us.



**Contact us. Web:** [www.liverpoolrangewindfarm.com.au](http://www.liverpoolrangewindfarm.com.au)

**Email:** [liverpoolrangewindfarm@tiltrenewables.com](mailto:liverpoolrangewindfarm@tiltrenewables.com) | 1800 WE TILT (1800 938 458)

**Postal Address:** PO Box 16080 Collins St West, Melbourne Vic 8007



# Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations



FUNDAMENTAL

**GUIDELINE**

Version 3.0  
25 October 2018  
Doctrine ID: 2053

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## Disclaimer

This document has been developed from consultation and research between the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited (**AFAC**), its members and stakeholders. It is intended to address matters relevant to fire, land management and emergency services across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region.

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## Citation

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council 2018, *Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations* (AFAC Publication No. 2053), AFAC, Melbourne, Australia.

## Review period

This AFAC guideline should be reviewed by the doctrine owner by October, 2023.

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# Acknowledgements

AFAC wishes to acknowledge the contribution made to this work by the Rural and Land Management Group, the Clean Energy Council, the Country Fire Authority, South Australian Country Fire Service and the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

## Source of authority

Approved by AFAC Council on 25 October, 2018.

## Purpose

This position is to state AFAC member agencies approach towards wind farms, their development and operations in relation to bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. It seeks to clarify the bushfire risks posed by planned and existing windfarms, risks to emergency responders operating in and around wind farm facilities and risks to windfarms as critical infrastructure from external fire. It also provides guidance for AFAC member agencies, wind farm developers, wind farm operators and other stakeholders in planning for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities in and around existing and planned wind farm facilities.

## Scope

This position highlights issues and provides guidance relating to planning for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery operations in and around existing and planned wind farm facilities. It excludes the environmental, social and economic issues associated with wind farms. It does not provide any judgments on the values or otherwise of wind farms.

Meteorological monitoring towers are often installed on planned wind farm sites for pre-construction investigative activities. Unmarked meteorological monitoring towers and guy ropes present greater risks for aerial firefighting operations than wind turbines. Therefore, this position considers bushfire operations in planned wind farm sites as well as wind farms that are under construction and in operation.

While many wind farms are located on private property, in some jurisdictions and locations land management agencies will be the first agency to respond to a bushfire

in or around a wind farm. Therefore, the guidance in this position relates to land management agencies as well as rural and urban fire authorities.

## Statement of engagement

The *2012 Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations* position was developed by the Rural and Land Management Group with input from the Clean Energy Council. In this revised position, the Rural and Land Management Group have incorporated feedback provided by the Australian National Wind Farm Commissioner.

## Audience

This position is intended for AFAC member agencies, wind farm developers, wind farm operators, land use planners and relevant regulators.

## Definitions, acronyms and key terms

In this position, the following terms have specific meanings.

**Preparedness:** arrangements to ensure that, should an emergency occur, all those resources and services that are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed. Measures to ensure that, should an emergency occur, communities, resources and services are capable of coping with the effects (AIDR 2018).

**Prevention:** regulatory and physical measures to ensure that emergencies are prevented, or their effects mitigated (AIDR 2018).

**Recovery:** the coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing (AIDR 2018).

**Response:** actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an incident to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support (AIDR 2018).

# Introduction

Wind power is a rapidly expanding mode of renewable energy production in Australia with installed capacity doubling in the past five years. Approximately 80 wind farms were in operation by the end of 2017, with another 13 wind farms under construction and at least another four wind farm projects with financial commitment that are expected to commence construction in 2018 (Clean Energy Council 2018).

In the context of an increasing number of wind farms it is important for AFAC member agencies to clarify their position in relation to windfarm development and operations and highlight some important considerations in risk mitigation.

## AFAC's guideline

### Bushfire risks in and around wind farm facilities

Wind farms are not expected to adversely affect fire behaviour, nor create major ignitions risks. Fire and land management agencies and wind farm developers and operators have a shared interest in mitigating the following bushfire related risks.

#### Ignition caused by wind farm infrastructure or operations

Automatic shutdown and isolation procedures are generally installed within the turbine system. However, it is possible that turbines can malfunction and start fires within the unit. This is generally considered a low risk given appropriate protection measures. Operation of winches and machinery during monitoring and maintenance tasks may also lead to ignitions. Subject to relevant national, state and territory legislation, wind farms may operate on days of total fire ban.

#### Lightning risks

Given that wind turbines can attract lightning during thunderstorms, it is possible that wind turbines may reduce the risk of bushfires caused by lightning, particularly if turbines are located on a ridge. If struck by lightning, turbine towers are generally not expected to start fires as they have built-in protection mechanisms.

#### Firefighting limitations in and around the wind farm facilities

Wind farms may result in aerial firefighting limitations due to aerial obstacles created by wind turbines and meteorological monitoring towers. The bushfire at the Waterloo wind farm demonstrated that if conditions are clear and wind turbines are turned off, wind turbines are clearly visible from aircraft and are not likely to constrain aerial firefighting operations (Clean Energy Council 2017). However, during this event transmission infrastructure, meteorological towers and guy-ropes were difficult to see (Clean Energy Council 2017); this infrastructure does have potential to limit the effectiveness of aerial firefighting operations. Access and egress challenges on the ground as well as water supply issues can also create firefighting limitations, if not planned for appropriately. Wind farms can also impact response operations by interfering with local and regional radio transmissions (Australian Wind Energy Association 2004a).

#### Hazards for emergency responders, including aerial personnel

Turbine towers, meteorological monitoring towers and power transmission infrastructure pose risks for aerial firefighting operations. Meteorological monitoring towers and power transmission infrastructure are generally difficult for aerial personnel to see, if they are not marked appropriately. If wind turbines were not shut down, moving blades and wake turbulence would create significant hazards for low flying aircraft, thus the shutting down of wind turbines, in an emergency situation, is defined in wind farm emergency procedures. A wind farm facility's power lines may pose electrocution risks, that are exacerbated due to smoke during a bushfire.

#### Bushfire spread within wind farm facilities and impacts on wind farms as critical infrastructure

Wind farms are not expected to adversely affect fire behaviour in their vicinity. Local wind speeds and direction are already highly variable across landscapes affected by turbulence from ridge lines, tall trees and buildings. Any potential for wake turbulence from wind turbines influencing fire behaviour is expected to be controlled through the shutting down of wind turbines in a bushfire event. Sufficient planning for access roads and fuel modified buffer zones will reduce the risk of wind farm ignitions spreading beyond the property and reduce the risk of external fire impacting wind farm infrastructure.

# Wind farms and bushfire management

## Prevention

Bushfire management issues are best treated at the planning stage of a wind farm project. Local planning controls are in place to regulate these issues with respect to any infrastructure development and some local planning controls refer specifically to wind farms. Fire and land management agencies may consider developing guidelines that outline preferred preventative safety measures for wind farm facilities in a manner that is targeted to local legislation and planning regulations.

Access roads should be considered when planning the layout of a windfarm. Appropriately planned access roads can increase the ability of fire and land management agencies to successfully undertake firefighting operations by allowing increased accessibility for emergency vehicles. Access roads and other infrastructure can also reduce the likelihood of fire moving through or leaving the property and can act as an effective firebreak in many circumstances. Naming and marking conventions for access roads should be considered to enhance accessibility. For example, marking an access road as A-B to indicate that it links landmark A with B; landmarks used for this purpose should be identifiable on site and marked on any site mapping. Access road marking should clearly indicate no through roads.

Where wind farms are located in vegetation types other than grassland, the planning for access routes and fuel modified buffer zones should consider:

- potential for bark spotting material to breach control lines
- potential for higher intensity fires associated with higher fuel hazard and more complex fuel arrangement
- fire vehicle off-road access challenges in woody vegetation pre-existing forest roads and fuel modified buffer zones.

Where applicable, buildings located on the site should comply with Australian Standard AS 3959- 2009 *Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas* to improve their performance when subjected to burning debris, radiant heat or flame contact generated from a bushfire.

The location of water access points should also be considered when planning the layout of a wind farm. In the event of a fire, water supply should be available and easily identifiable by emergency response personnel to avoid hindering fire suppression efforts.

Planning for ongoing vegetation management in and around the wind farm facility should also be considered in the early stages of a wind farm development.

Other preventative measures relate to the type of

equipment that is used in the development of a wind farm. There are wind farm turbine models that have safe shutdown systems and protection mechanisms in the cases of fire. Installation of these can assist in preventing fires around the wind farm.

Wind farms can interfere with local and regional radio transmissions by physical obstruction and radio frequency electromagnetic radiation (Australian Wind Energy Association 2004a). The risk of radio communications affecting emergency response operations may be considered in the planning stages for a wind farm development. This issue may be considered in wind farm site selection and equipment selection.

Windfarm developers should also be aware that meteorological monitoring towers, which are associated with pre-construction investigative activities as well as operating wind farms, are generally more likely to pose a risk to pilots as they are not easily visible structures. For these structures, developers should record these towers in the Tall Structures Database maintained by Air Services Australia (Civil Aviation Safety Authority 2018) and install warning lights or visible markers (such as orange balls) on all masts to minimise risks during aerial firefighting operations.

During the planning phase of the wind farm, developers and operators should ensure the following by the time construction commences:

- all relevant staff are aware of emergency protocols and procedures
- the wind farm's emergency contact number is readily available online and is attended to at all times by trained staff
- turbines can be rapidly shut down in emergency situations and protocols should be explicit about what party has the authority to direct turbine shut-down procedures
- contingent communication systems are in place in case of failed telephone communication attempts
- relevant fire and land management agencies can gain access throughout the wind farm site during bushfire operations – this may require prior coordination with landowners to ensure access is not constrained
- relevant fire and land management agencies have been provided up-to-date information on the layout and design of the wind farm infrastructure. During the construction period of a wind farm, the developer should provide periodical updates to fire and land management agencies as the wind farm is progressively built.

## Preparedness

Wind farm developers and operators should ensure they have effective emergency management procedures and

incident action plans in place in the event of bushfires and other emergencies. Wind farm organisations should ensure that all relevant staff are aware of these plans and procedures and should know their roles and responsibilities.

Wind farm developers and operators should take responsibility for the following:

- preparing emergency management protocols e.g. communications from and with the fire and land management agencies and access to the property
- shutdown and positioning of turbines upon request by the relevant fire or land management agency when the operator becomes aware of a bushfire in the area
- implementing and testing bushfire response plans
- providing appropriate emergency response training and equipment to staff
- proactively liaising with fire and land management agencies and sharing information with communities in the case of an emergency.

It is important that wind farm developers and operators liaise with the relevant fire and land management agencies to prepare appropriate emergency management and response protocols. The wind farm proponent should also provide details of wind farm infrastructure to relevant authorities, such as the layout of wind turbines, wind monitoring towers and transmission lines. Any expected radio interference should also be communicated to relevant fire and land management agencies and be considered in the development of an incident action plan.

Wind farms are an infrastructure development that should be considered by fire and land management agencies through the preparation of incident action plans for the suppression of bushfires in their vicinity. These considerations are routine and wind farms are not expected to present elevated risks to operations compared to other electrical infrastructure.

Agency incident action plans may include:

- key emergency contacts
- site mapping with locations of water supply, wind turbines, meteorological monitoring towers and transmission lines (this information should be sourced available from wind farm operators)
- surrounding vegetation types and the location of fuel modified buffer zones
- access information, e.g. route, gates and locks
- safety considerations and procedures
- procedures for dealing with turbine fires or collapse, collision or damage to turbines agency response protocols and procedures.

Accessibility to the wind farm during bushfire operations may require prior coordination with landowners to ensure access is not constrained.

Wind farm operators, land owners and fire and land management agencies should consider maintenance of access routes and control lines, including vegetation management, in planning for their bushfire preparedness activities.

### Response

In the event of a bushfire in and around an existing or planned wind farm facility, fire and land management agencies should follow any relevant incident action plans and response protocols that have been developed. Fire and land management agencies should maintain close communications with designated key contacts for wind farm facilities.

Wind farm operators should be responsible for ensuring that the relevant emergency protocols and plans are properly executed in an emergency event. During an emergency, operators need to react quickly to ensure they can assist and intervene in accordance with their planned procedures.

The developer or operator should ensure that:

- liaison with the relevant fire and land management agencies is ongoing and effective
- access is available to the wind farm site by emergency services response for on-ground firefighting operations
- wind turbines are shut down immediately during emergency operations – where possible, blades should be stopped in the ‘Y’ or ‘rabbit ear’ position, as this positioning allows for the maximum airspace for aircraft to manoeuvre underneath the blades and removes one of the blades as a potential obstacle.

Aerial personnel should assess risks posed by aerial obstacles, wake turbulence and moving blades in accordance with routine procedures.

### Recovery

In the period after an emergency event, wind farm operators should be actively involved in recovery activities. This may include supporting and communicating with emergency-affected communities and helping to coordinate the reconstruction of infrastructure as required.

Liaison with wind farm operators and energy industry representatives during and after bushfires should aim to ensure minimal disruption to generation capacity and rapid resumption of essential services to the community. Examination of any learnings should also be discussed with all parties, with any relevant updates to all emergency management plans and protocols to be implemented. Wind farm operators and fire and land management agencies may also wish to share learnings from the event with the wind farm and emergency management sectors as appropriate.

## Case study: Waterloo Wind Farm, South Australia<sup>1</sup>

In January 2017, a bushfire started on a paddock near the Waterloo Wind Farm in South Australia. Fanned by gusty westerly and north-westerly winds, the fire quickly spread through the area and raced up the ridge where the wind farm was located.

200 Country Fire Service volunteers were involved in firefighting operations and were supported by three water bombing aircraft. By the time fire was declared under control in the early evening, approximately 50 hectares of grassland was burned, including land underneath turbines at the northern end of the Waterloo Wind Farm (Clean Energy Council 2017).

The wind farm operator confirmed that there was no damage to any wind farm infrastructure and no danger at any time to human life as a result of the fire.

However, a number of learnings for emergency management procedures and protocols in relation to wind farms and bushfires arose.

These included:

- the wind farm's access roads were beneficial in helping fight the bushfire on the ground and provided an effective firebreak
- the wind farm's turbines did not present a hazard to aerial firefighting and the turbines were clearly visible to the pilots involved in operations. However, transmission infrastructure, transmission lines and meteorological masts were difficult to see by pilots and did pose a safety risk
- to maximise air space for firefighting between the turbines, turbines should be locked in the 'Y' position
- improved communication protocols need to be in place between wind farm operators and fire and land management agencies to direct turbine shut-down procedures in an emergency situation and initiate emergency response plans
- wind farm operators should ensure that they have the capacity to respond to emergency events
- wind farm operators should ideally select turbines that can be rapidly shut down to the preferred position
- additional precautionary measures should be considered to allow for aerial identification of meteorological masts (measurement towers), guy wires and other infrastructure such as transmission lines that are not easily visible from air.

Normal wind farm operations resumed once the Country Fire Service advised the operator that it was safe to do so.

<sup>1</sup> Clean Energy Council (2017) In Case of Fire: a real-life experience at a wind farm site.

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# The Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project



## Information Sessions in Nundle

- Commencing from January 2020, Mike Stranger from Someva will be in Nundle for two days of every month to meet with members of the community and talk about Wind Energy Partner's proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project.
- Mike will be available to meet from **8AM to 8PM** on the **third Tuesday and Wednesday of every month.**
- We wish to meet with residents to listen to your concerns and answer your questions about the Project.
- Information sessions will be held at a location convenient for you, anywhere in Hanging Rock, Nundle or Crawney.
- Please email, call or text to arrange an information session.
- All members of the community are welcome to meet with us.
- Send us questions or concerns for discussion before the meeting, or just come and have a chat on the day.

**First Sessions 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020, 8AM-8PM**

**SOMEVA RENEWABLES PTY LTD**

**36-38 YOUNG STREET, SYDNEY, NSW, 2000, AUSTRALIA**

Email [mike.s@someva.com.au](mailto:mike.s@someva.com.au) or call/text 0449 631 875 to book.



# Community Enhancement Fund Workshop

Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project

Hanging Rock, Nundle & Crawney



# Welcome & Introductions

## Agenda:

5:30 – 6

CEF information presentation

6 – 6:45

Group brainstorming exercises and discussion

6:45 – 7

Break

7 – 7:45

Group brainstorming exercises and discussion

7:45 – 8

Workshop Review/Summary and Finish



# Purpose

*To present existing information and integrate views of the Hanging Rock, Nundle and Crawney communities into the key elements of the CEF, in order to develop a Draft CEF agreement design.*

## **Reminder – CCC Guidelines Code of Conduct - Key Points**

- Respectfully engage
- Open and constructive participation and shared dialogue
- Communicate relevant concerns, interests and ideas;
- Make reasons for any disagreement clear in a constructive and thoughtful manner
- Actively work with the members of the committee to try and resolve any disputes that may arise during the committee's activities
- Not interrupt when another member is speaking



# What tonight is about All the "C's"

Collaborate

Cohesion

Communicate

Cooperate

Community

Contribute

Consider

Create



# CEF Timeline



*2017-2019*

*CEF commitment incorporated into Landowner Agreements*

*March 2018*

*WEP announcement of CEF to community*

*2018*

*Community consultation feedback for CEF*

*June 2019*

*Project benefits and CEF in CCC meeting*

*September 2019*

*Preliminary CEF information and Workshop Proposal in CCC meeting*

***February 2020***

***Where we are now***

*February – April 2020*

*WEP Draft CEF Design*

*April/May 2020*

*WEP Present Draft CEF Design to CCC*

*May/June 2020*

*CCC feedback and further consultation*

*July/August 2020*

*Finalize CEF Design for lodgment with DA*

# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Community Events



SOMEVA  
RENEWABLES

- Nundle Go for Gold
- Great Nundle Dog race
- Country Picnic
- Art exhibition
- Australia day
- Xmas in July
- Nundle Pony Club
- Camp draft



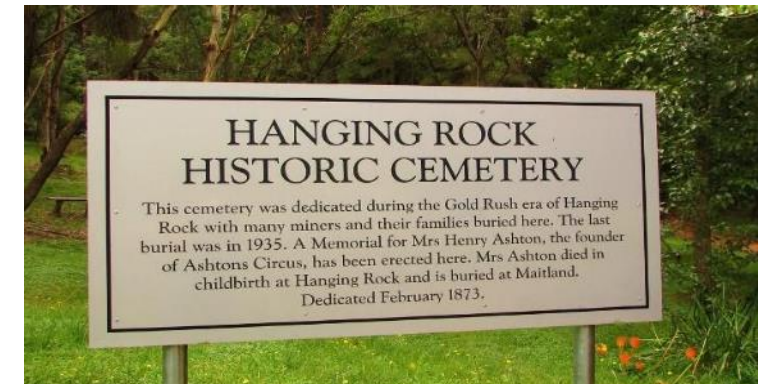
Images credit: facebook, northern daily leader, herald sun

# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Community Buildings and Facilities



SOMEVA  
RENEWABLES

- The Nundle Sports and Rec Club
- Nundle swimming club/pool
- Community hydrotherapy pool – could be done by upgrading Nundle Pool
- Nundle Memorial Hall
- Old Church Boutique
- Nundle preschool and primary school
- Nundle Bowling Club
- Hanging Rock hall
- Skate park
- Medical centre
- Aged care facilities
- Golf course
- Hanging Rock and Nundle Cemetery





# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Other Community Infrastructure and Services

- Minimising the impact of the project on the town
- Nundle Water Quality
- Water Security
- Mobile phone connection tower for Hanging Rock and Morrisons Gap area
- Hanging Rock and Nundle Fire brigade
- Sheeba and Chaffey dams



# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Community Programs and Initiatives

- Music education program
- Regenerative agriculture
- Environment and sustainability initiatives (recycling, reuse, water conservation and energy conservation, circular economy)
- Could Nundle become 100% renewable



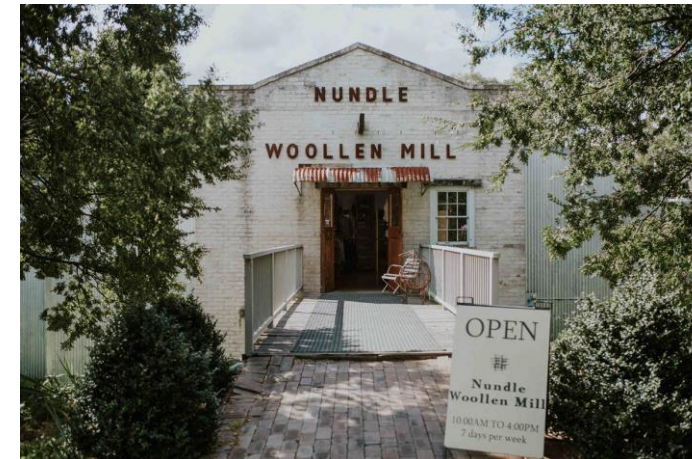


# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Tourism



SOMEVA  
RENEWABLES

- Nundle Information Outlet
- Walking Tracks/Bike Tracks/Wind Farm Bus Tours
- Hanging Rock Lookout
- Promotion of Nundle and key attractions
- Mount Misery Museum
- Nundle Woollen Mill
- Free transport services to Tamworth and Quirindi



# CEF Consultation Results and Feedback – Other Comments and Considerations

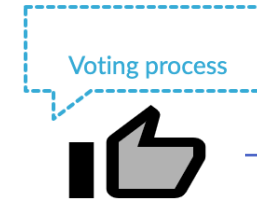
- Interest in a community enhancement fund for those who wouldn't benefit from the increased business opportunities
- How can the community benefits offered through the community enhancement fund be ensured to be paid by the company
- Compensation for HOGPI in raising concerns of community
- Lots of community re-building to mend social division
- Greater consideration for Hanging Rock community
- Committee representative for Nundle Sport and Recreation Club

# Community Enhancement Fund Design

## CEF Design Overview

2 funding rounds per year:

- \$2500 per year per turbine
- 97 turbines



The voting process can be opened up to the whole community or kept between the committee running the CEF

The CEF can be governed with three different approaches:

- Each approach involves a committee of members
- This can be decided annually with an election process



Potential application evaluation criteria:

- Project benefits
- Target community needs
- Availability of funding
- Project viability

Requirements could include:

- 20km radius allows priority funding
- Registered groups

# Community Enhancement Fund Design

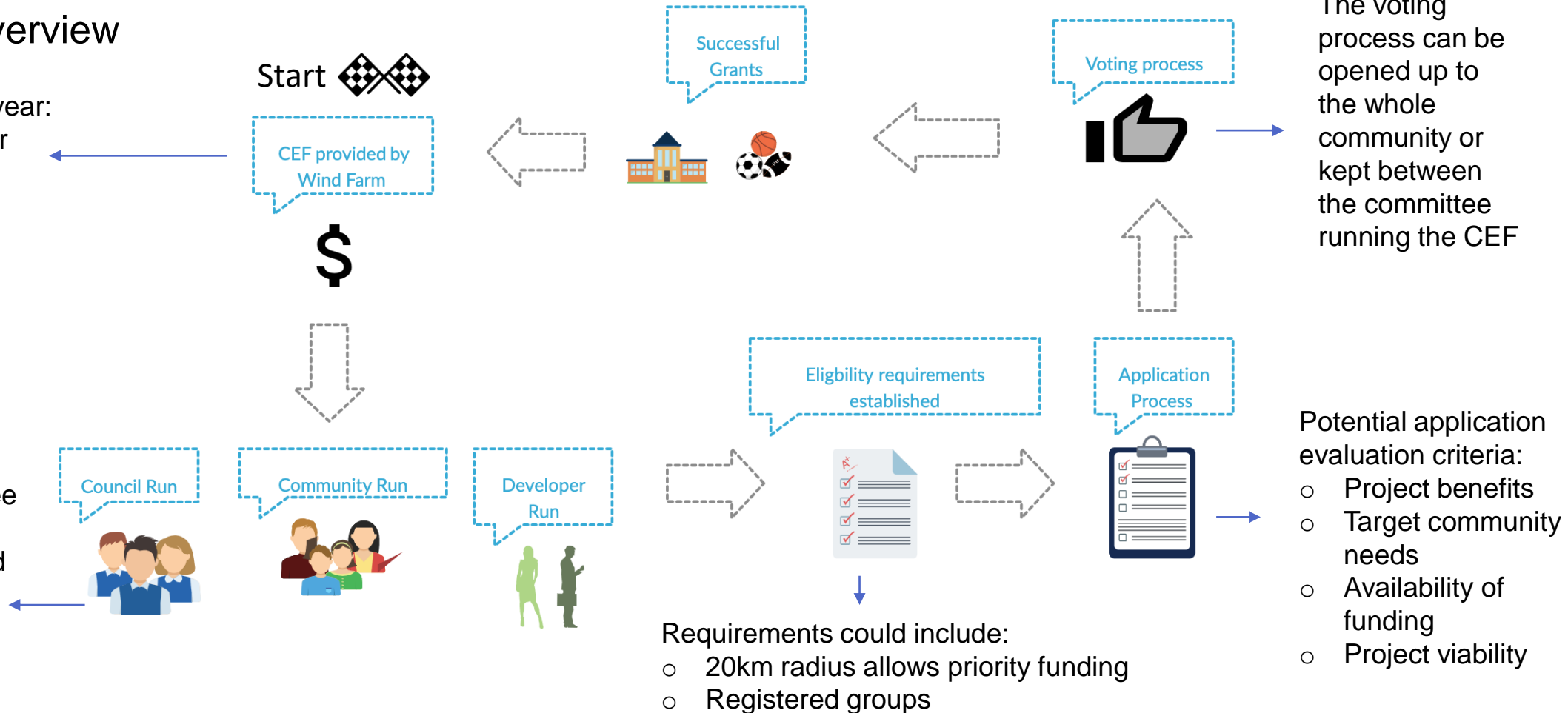
## CEF Design Overview

2 funding rounds per year:

- \$2500 per year per turbine
- 97 turbines

The CEF can be governed with three different approaches:

- Each approach involves a committee of members
- This can be decided annually with an election process





# Option 1 – CEF Discretionary

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There is time saved on the initial phase of setting up a committee within the council or community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Doesn't provide confidence to the community of commitments (however can be contractually created)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Allows collaboration between the developers, councils and local representatives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Broad representation of community voice is at the discretion of developers through either decision making and appointment of committee</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It is not lead by the community</li></ul>

## Case Study: Crowlands Wind Farm Victoria, Pacific Hydro

- The wind farm constructed in 2019 will invest \$2.2 million over 25 years into a community fund
- Located in Western Victoria's Pyrenees Shire Council
- Sustainable communities fund with a panel consisting of 3 community members, 2 local shire councils and Pacific Hydro representatives
- Expressions of interest advertised each year for community members to apply for the panel



*Community members from Crowlands Wind Farm, (Pacific Hydro)*

### Example projects awarded funding

1. Crowlands Cemetery Trust – Memorial
2. Elmhurst Public Hall - Stove replacement
3. Project Platypus – Landcare
4. Landsborough primary school – School bus



# Option 2 – CEF Independent Trust

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Perception of Independence of the Trust Committee once established</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Greater risk of breakdown without structure and responsibility of council to maintain its commitment to the governance and existence</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There is autonomy associated with the methods in which, the community advertises the fund</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Effort required by Community to communicate funding processes and manage governance and reporting.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Those impacted indirectly by the wind farm such as neighbours can have direct access to be a part of the committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Complexity is establishing and operating with guidelines and administration to be established from scratch</li></ul>

## Case Study: Snowtown Wind Farm, Tilt Renewables

- Located 5km west of Snowtown and 170km north of Adelaide
- Funds provided to the Lend a Hand Foundation in Snowtown that have members of the community who decide on, which projects to receive funding



*Snowtown kids visiting tilt renewables wind farm, (Tilt Renewables)*

*“In the last two years we’ve provided funds for a weather station for the Snowtown Country Fire Service, supported the Bute Men’s shed, and contributed to the Brinkworth history group for their museum and a reprint of their centenary book through grant funding.” Alan Large, Snowtown resident and Lend a hand foundation committee member*

# Option 3 – CEF S355 Committee

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councils are already well established to commit to long term operation of the Fund. Create stability.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councils focus on multiple issues facing its residents, which may not target the funding to those directly involved with the wind farm</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Long term institutions, democratically elected, transparent and audited financial systems, experienced in assessing, managing and reporting committees.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councils have a significant amount of tasks and responsibility already and by assigning this extra role it could put more strain on other developments needed</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Has been the most common approach for wind farms. Tamworth and Nundle/Hanging Rock have strong framework and guidelines for S355 management.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Perception of council involvement in local community benefits</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Council network and channels to communication of application process, eligibility etc.</li></ul>	

## Committee Structure:

- Councillor delegate
- 2+ community representatives who aren't associated landowners
- A representative appointed by the company

## Case study: Boco Rock Wind Farm, CWP Renewables

- 30km North of Bombala, NSW
- Fund delivers an annual contribution of \$77,500 to Bombala Council and \$90,000 to Monaro Council



*Community Open Day, (Boco Rock Wind Farm)*

# Group Brainstorming Exercise and Discussion - Format



*Time: Approx. 20 minutes per Exercise*

*Groups: 4 x groups of 4-5 people (rotate after break)*

*Number: 4 x Exercises in Total*

*Exercise: 1. Review feedback and group discussion/responses to CEF questions (10 minutes)*

*2. One group presents and open forum discussion/input (10*

# Exercise 1 – CEF Purpose and Objectives



## Questions

1. *What do we want the key funding priorities of the community enhancement fund to be?*
2. *What community projects, events, facilities, buildings, organisations, clubs, heritage sites, etc. should the community enhancement fund benefit?*
3. *Conversely, what should the CEF NOT be used for?*
4. *How do these priorities get decided?*
5. *How do we set parameters for where funds are spent i.e. geographic, municipalities, LGA's?*

# Exercise 2 – CEF Establishment, Governance and Administration



## Questions

1. *How do we want the community enhancement fund to be governed and administered?*
2. *What will be the role and responsibilities of the committee?*
3. *What role will the council's play in the functioning of the fund?*
4. *Is there a preference for council administration via a S355 or independent trust or charity with a specific charter?*



# Exercise 3 – CEF Establishment, Governance and Administration (cont'd)



## Questions

5. *How many committee members should there be and how do these committee representatives get nominated, elected or appointed?*
6. *How will monetary contributions be managed and by whom?*
7. *How often should the committee meet?*
8. *How should change be managed during the life of the CEF?*

# Exercise 4 – Fund Eligibility Criteria



## Questions

- 1. What types of recipients would be eligible for grants from the fund?*
- 2. How do the decisions be made on how the funds are spent?*
- 3. What framework can be setup to ensure the fund operates as per its mandate?*

# Community Enhancement Fund Design

## Feedback from Community Enhancement Fund Workshop

### (a) Exercise 1 – CEF Purpose and Objectives

#### 1. What do we want the key funding priorities of the community enhancement fund to be?

- No individuals
- Not maintenance functions ordinarily performed by council
- Charter -> enhances wellbeing and lifestyle for members of community
- Merit system
- Representation from Nargeroo on committee
- Council representation with authority to liaise with
- Structure of committee, applicant could present
- Non-voting -> 3 council representation
- Administration -> Council function
- GST, quarterly financial reports, payments, acquittal processes
- 7 committee members

1x Nargeroo?

2x Nundle

2x Hanging Rock

2x Timor / Crawney

3x Non-voting LGA members

• Project programs or facilities that are located within or provide a service to the local community

- Biannual funding rounds
- Optional presentation by applicant
- Application process needs to be accessible and simple
- Justification of community benefit/need
- Not S355 Committee
- Strong group as community
- Hanging Rock + Nundle as one
- Not 20km
- Old Nundle shire, Dungowan, Woolomin, Dunant Creek, Goonoo
- Workers in and out of roads
- Camp draft and people from Dungowan + Woolomin
- Barry, Crawney, Timor

#### 2. What community projects should the community enhancement fund benefit?

- Social environment improvement
- Whole of community benefit
- 30km radius from project
- Upgrades to the community
- Education aspect
- Natural environment
- Charity groups

# Community Enhancement Fund Design

- Landowners should not benefit,

## (b) Exercise 2: CEF establishment, Governance and Administration

### **1. How do we want the community enhancement fund to be Governed and Administered?**

- Includes body with a model constitution with strong financial and administrative support with appropriate involvement of council
- If funding is comparatively minimal council would be the preferred 'lead' on the fund
- If sufficient pool of money 2 rounds per year but this structure needs to be flexible
- Available skillsets + volunteer burn out
- Process of decision making for trust representation – CCC to choose? Who decides?

### **2. What will be the roles and responsibilities of the committee?**

- Robust governance impeccable financials
- Need for transparency + integrity of members
- Must stand test of time
- Provision of funding out of overall 'pot' to ensure good governance e.g. Audited statements potentially done by the council
- Responsibility of trust members must be clearly understood e.g. Public liability, professional indemnity insurances
- Responsibility for administration costs
- Communication costs (Advertising, newsletters)
- Trends of declining volunteering
- Structure of committee is important (skills)
- Need for certainty of funding available
- Will potentially influence the ultimate model
- Issue -> Overall footprint of the development is currently unknown.

### **3. What role will the council play in the functioning of the fund?**

- Trust model has worked well historically
- Nundle has approx. 26 committees
- Trust facilitates better equity across impacted communities
- Greater transparency
- Representative of broader community need
- Ability to bring specific skillsets 'to the table'
- Trust is able to be more flexible and agile

## Accounting and admin/finance

- Company secretary
- Assessment + recommend
- Chair

# Community Enhancement Fund Design

- Marketing
  - Agenda
- > Existing projects
- > Budget Update
- > Funding rounds
- 6/9 votes achieve a consensus
  - Scholarships
  - Council to remain involved for safe keeping and governance
  - What happens if trust falls over?
  - Key to addressing falling over concern is council agreeing with condition that it must fund if the committee requires it.
  - Conflicts of interest in voting

## **4. Is there a preference for council administration via a S355 or independent trust or charity with a specific charter?**

Potential council involvement in trust model

- Resolution of disputes
- Secretariat
- Non-voting (council)
- Council advice on strategic planning
- Potential rotation of council staff over different CGA's
- Distribute minutes to each council

## **5. How many committee members should there be and how do they get nominated?**

- No active S355 committee currently exists
- Independent trust
- S355 delegating to a group activity
- Broad representation, across the Hanging rock, Nundle and Crawney region
- Code of conduct to guide behaviour and principles
- Founding members of the committee and then rotation of members
- Once set up establish running costs
- Accounts to be audited by an independent body and transparent around every

motion

## **6. How will monetary contributions be managed and by whom?**

- The three coal mines only provided \$100,000 each over the lifetime of the whole project to the communities
- Council to provide administration assistance but paid for by the fund
- Flexibility within the fund's structure is important
- Having the right structure is critical
- JK – if host land owner increases rates
- Council to provide certainty that rates won't be affected by host landowner
- Also adjust council funding commitments
- Community would like free power as part of the community enhancement fund



# Community Enhancement Fund Design

## **7. How often should the committee meet and how should change be managed during the life of the CEF**

-> 1 x council member (from each council, through voting)

-> 5x community (voting)

-> 1x owner

- 3-year term for each committee
- If more than 5 people go to vote
- Should be a requirement to live within 20-30km of project
- Ballot to community to decide committee
- Committee to receive review and deeds
- There should be diverse representation across the community

## (c) Exercise 4 – Fund Eligibility Criteria

### **1. Recipients, decisions and frameworks**

- Priority to those most impacted

-> footprint of project, e.g. noise, traffic and environmental

- Should not subsidise state / federal government organisations
- Should not benefit individuals
- Not for profit groups to be the priority
- Should not benefit individual business interests
- Should not be used for general council obligations and responsibilities e.g. road

maintenance and upgrades

- Application process subject to meeting eligibility criteria
- Budgets ensuring capability for project delivery by community organisations
- CPI increases accommodated
- Consensus / voting
- Strong funding guidelines that incorporates flexibility
- Councils provided with a designated seat at the table
- Sitting fees + admin costs
- Exclusion of landowners / interest management

### **2. How are decisions made and how can a framework be set up to ensure the fund operates as per its mandate?**

- 6/9 to secure certainty
- Absentee votes
- CWA, P & C, NTDE, lions group
- Volunteering may dilute
- This will be agreed with council
- Independent audit whether council or independent body
- Those responsible of funds should have a set of skills, this lends itself to council

with its governance structures.

## Ex 4

1. Within an arbitrary radius ~  
of the footprint

2. Based on criteria

- built, social & natural environment

- NFPs, local institutions

$\frac{2}{3}$  votes for to gain approval for granting funds.

3. Quorum of 6 for funding to take place  
Independent auditing of funds

# 1. Governance + Administration

- Inc. body with model constitution with strong financial + administrative support with appropriate involvement of Council.
- If funding is minimal Council would be the preferred 'lead' on the fund.   
 (comparatively)
- If sufficient pool of money 2 rounds per year but this structure needs to be flexible
- Available skillsets + volunteer burn out
- Process of decision making for Trust representation - CCC to choose? Who decides - major risk.





## 4. STRUCTURE

- Trust model has worked well historically
- Nundle has approx. 26 committees
- Trust facilitates better equity across impacted communities.
- Greater transparency
- Representative of broader community need.
- Ability to bring specific skillsets 'to the table'
- Trust is able to be more flexible + 'agile'
- <sup>(3)</sup> Potential Council involvement in Trust Model
  - eg. resolution of disputes
  - Secretariat
  - Non-voting (Council)
  - Council advice on strategic planning
  - Potential rotation of Council staff over different LGAs
  - Distribute minutes to each Council.
  - Project support
  - Conduit to broader Council.



5. See 01

6. Money held by Council + managed by the Trust

7. Monthly minimum

\* needs to have a code of ~~conflict~~ conduct  
re: conflicts of interest

Q1:

- Independent Trust, administered by the Trust

- elected committee

- Council reps

- owner

- community - Greeney, Alan

5 members (maximise diversity)

- if more than 5 community members nominate, then a vote takes place

Council(s) to play a role in forming the Trust

Q2: Roles:

1 - accept applications + decide on those requiring funding

- "marketing", building awareness of what can be funded

Finance Chair / Treasurer / Secretary / Marketing

- 6 votes for project to go ahead.

3. Support services

Potentially administer funds

4. Independent Trust

- Not 5355
- Strong group and community
- Hanging Rock + Nurdle as one
- Not 20 km
- Old Nurdle shire - Dargoman, Eginvale  
Wolomin, Duneant Creek, Cooro, Leambrook
- voters in and out of roads.
- Camp draft had people from Dargoman + Wolomin
- Barry, Cranney, Timor.

projects, programs or facilities<sup>and events</sup> that are located within or provide a service to the local community.

- Biannual funding rounds.
- Optional presentation by applicant.
- ~~place~~ application process needs to be accessible + simple. Justification of community benefit/need.



# GOVERNANCE

1. RECIPIENTS?

2. DECISIONS

3. FRAMEWORK

- Priority to those most impacted  
→ footprint of project eg. noise, traffic, environmental.
- Should not subsidise state / federal gov't organisations
- Should not benefit individuals.
- Not for profit focus.
- Should not benefit individual business interests
- Should not ~~be~~ be used for general Council obligations + responsibilities. eg. road maintenance + upgrades.
- Application process subject to meeting eligibility criteria
- Budgets - ensuring capability for project delivery by community organisations
- CPT increases accommodated
- Consensus / voting
- ~~Strong~~ Strong funding guidelines - flexibility over time
- Councils provided with a seat<sup>at</sup> at the table?
- ~~Exclusion~~ Exclusion of landholders / pecuniary interest management
- Sitting fees + admin costs designated



## 2. Roles & Responsibilities

- Robust governance 'impeccable' financials
- Need for transparency + integrity of members.
- Must stand test of time.
- Provision of funding out of overall 'pot' to ensure good governance eg. audited Statements etc. Potential role for Council - extra?
- Responsibility of trust <sup>Members</sup> must be clearly understood eg. public liability, professional indemnity insurances.
- Responsibility of for administration costs.
- ↳ Communication costs. (advertising, newsletters)
- Trends of declining volunteering.
- Structure of Committee is important (skills).
- Need for certainty of funding available
- ↳ Will potentially influence the ultimate model
- Issue: overall footprint of the development is currently unknown.

Hills of Gold Preservation Inc.  
24<sup>th</sup> of January 2020

Dear HOGP Inc.

**RE: CCC Meeting Tabled Document Tuesday 10th December 2019 – Someva Renewables response**

We appreciate the feedback regarding concerns that Hills of Gold Preservation Inc. have raised on support from the community for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Development. We aim to continuously engage with the community to ensure that the outcomes are suitable for all and accurate information is available to those concerned.

We understand that there is misunderstanding and inaccurate information regarding the proposed wind farm. We have subsequently increased our consultation within the past few months through surveys, one-on-one meetings and phone calls, and learnt that these concerns are general in nature and common misunderstandings of wind farm proposals. The community questions Hills of Gold Preservation Inc tabled in the September CCC meeting support this.

The National Wind Farm Commissioner's 2018 report states it is more complaints are received for wind farms proposed or in construction than operating - suggesting the understanding of impacts prior to operation is disproportionate to the reality. Further it should be noted that no complaints in the 2018 report were received for operating projects in NSW, suggesting a rigorous assessment process in determining appropriateness of proposed wind farms to community concerns.

Wind Energy Partners remain committed to further consultation and have recently announced monthly availability at convenient locations to the community for information sessions. This information was posted to residents and announced through the email database recently. The initiative commenced in January 2020, and a number of meetings were held with concerned local residents. There will be further opportunity for consultation during upcoming February visits for the CCC site tour and Community Enhancement Fund workshop.

Wind Energy Partners takes seriously its' responsibility to ensure accurate information is available. As part of ensuring specific concerns learnt through expert assessments can be considered by the community, WEP are committed to sharing interim results through CCC meetings and information sessions to consult and avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts the project may create, and also highlight project benefits.

We note that at this point in time, there is a need to provide detailed and accurate information through the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the broader facts of wind power appropriately explained and the project in the context of state and federal energy infrastructure planning and policy. This includes the presentation of preliminary visual montages in April and the noise and vibration studies in October, which we understand to be the basis for opposition in the community petition sited by the Justice of the Peace. We hope that by offering information sessions between experts and the community, interested people can come forward and learn more.

It is the view of Wind Energy Partners that the completed EIS and further consultation will help those concerned with the development make an informed decision regarding their concerns. We request that those concerned with the development continue to engage directly with Wind Energy Partners and wait for detailed information regarding the project to be presented through interim presentation of various technical studies and the full EIS when submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

As previously offered we would welcome the opportunity to meet with executive members and representatives of Hills of Gold Preservation Inc. and offer the time of our experts to provide technical responses to methodologies and interim results as they become available.

Sincerely,



Jamie Chivers  
Managing Director – Wind Energy Partners

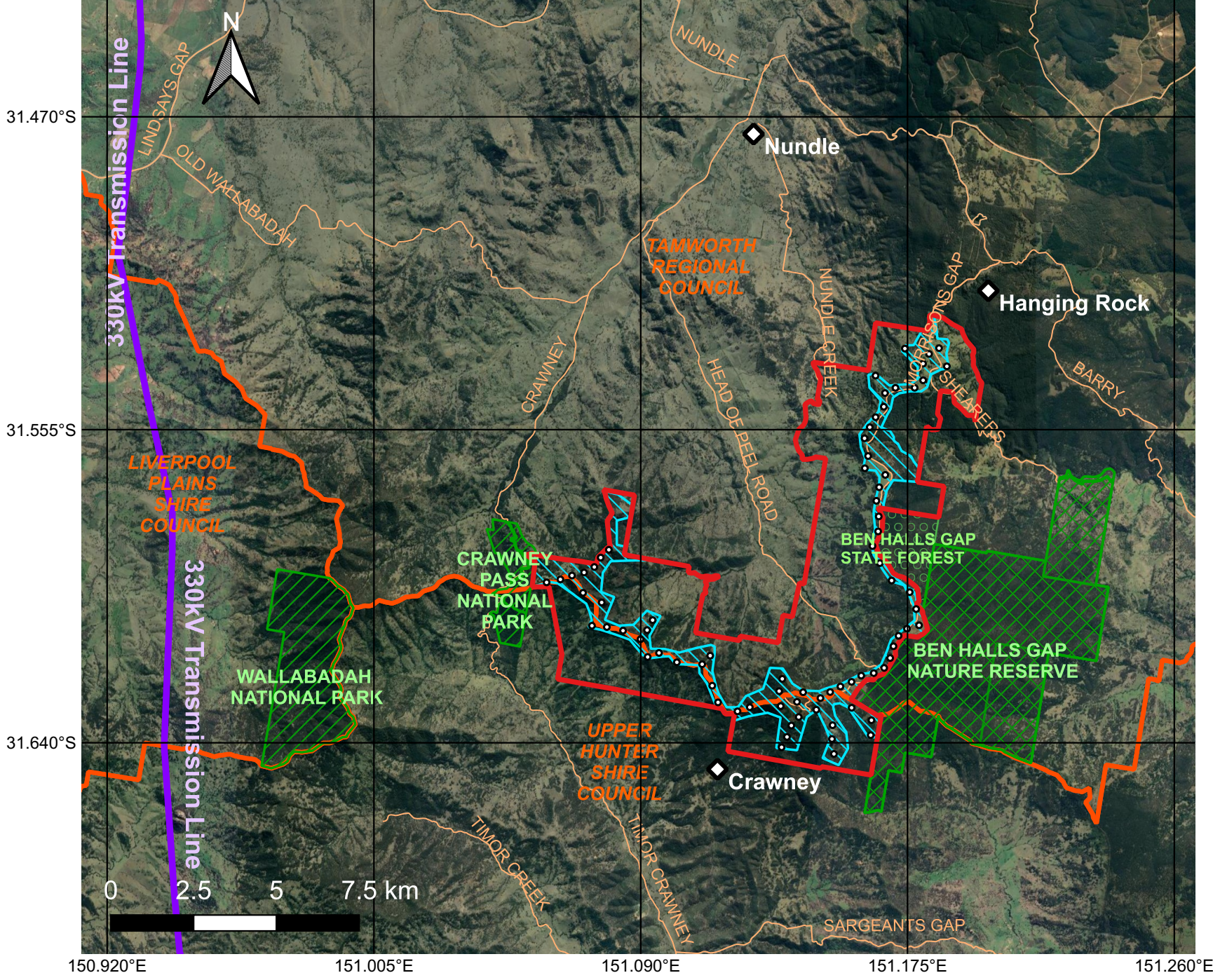
[jamie.c@someva.com.au](mailto:jamie.c@someva.com.au)

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36-38 Young St

Sydney NSW 2000





**SOMEVA**  
RENEWABLES

### LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Development Corridor
- Wallabadah & Crawney Pass National Parks
- Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve
- Ben Halls Gap State Forest
- Local Government Area
- Arterial/Minor Roads
- 330kV Liddell - Tamworth Transmission Line
- Turbine Area (100m Buffer)
- Towns

Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
Preliminary Layout

PROJECT: Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
LAST MODIFIED: 26/03/2020  
VERSION: 6









MAP  
1 of 3





**SOMEVA**  
RENEWABLES

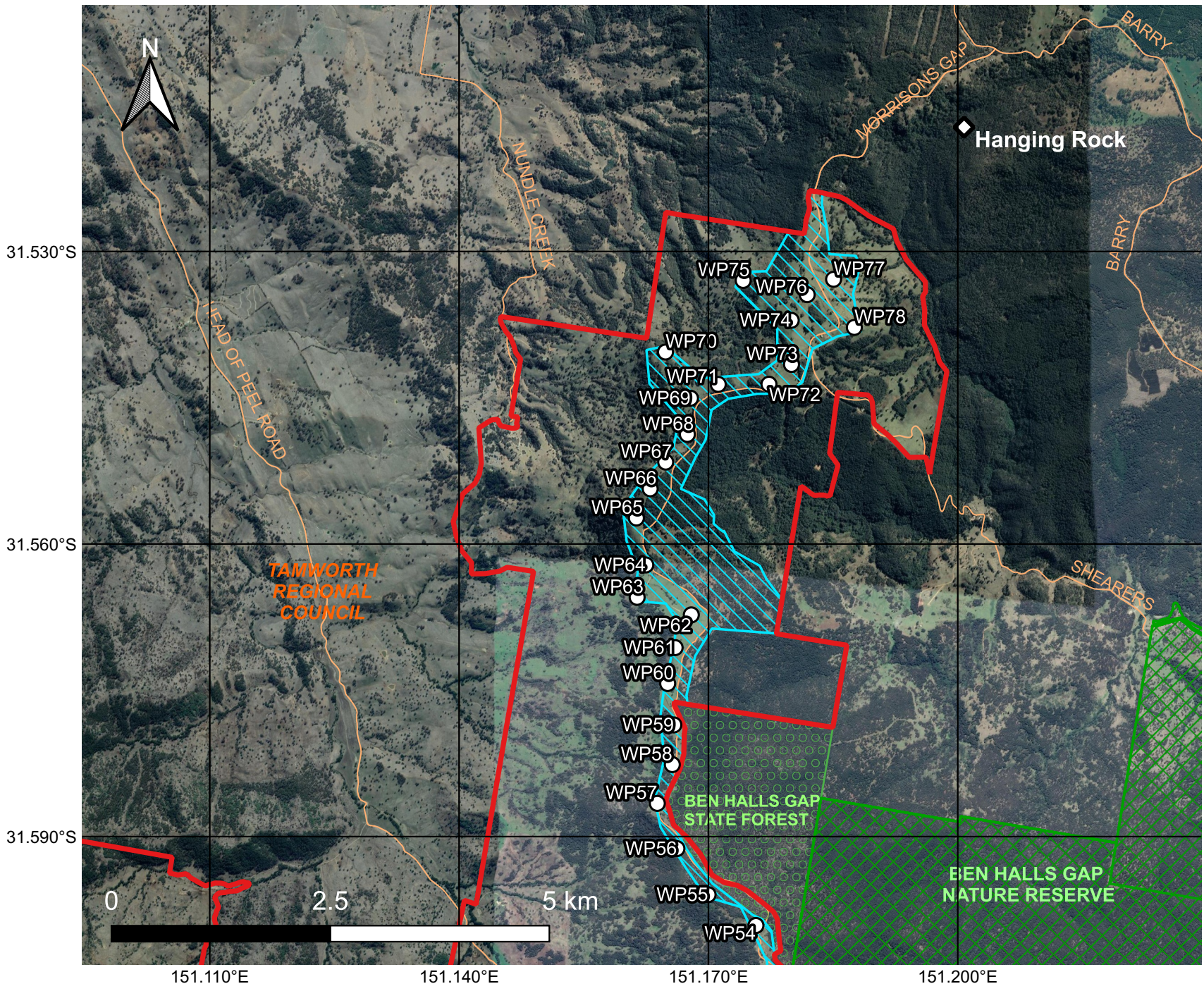
### LEGEND

-  Site Boundary
-  Development Corridor
-  Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve
-  Ben Halls Gap State Forest
-  Local Government Area
-  Arterial/Minor Roads
-  Turbine Area (100m Buffer)
-  Towns

Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
 Preliminary Layout  
 Northern Section of Site

PROJECT: Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
 LAST MODIFIED: 26/03/2020  
 VERSION: 6

MAP  
 2 of 3

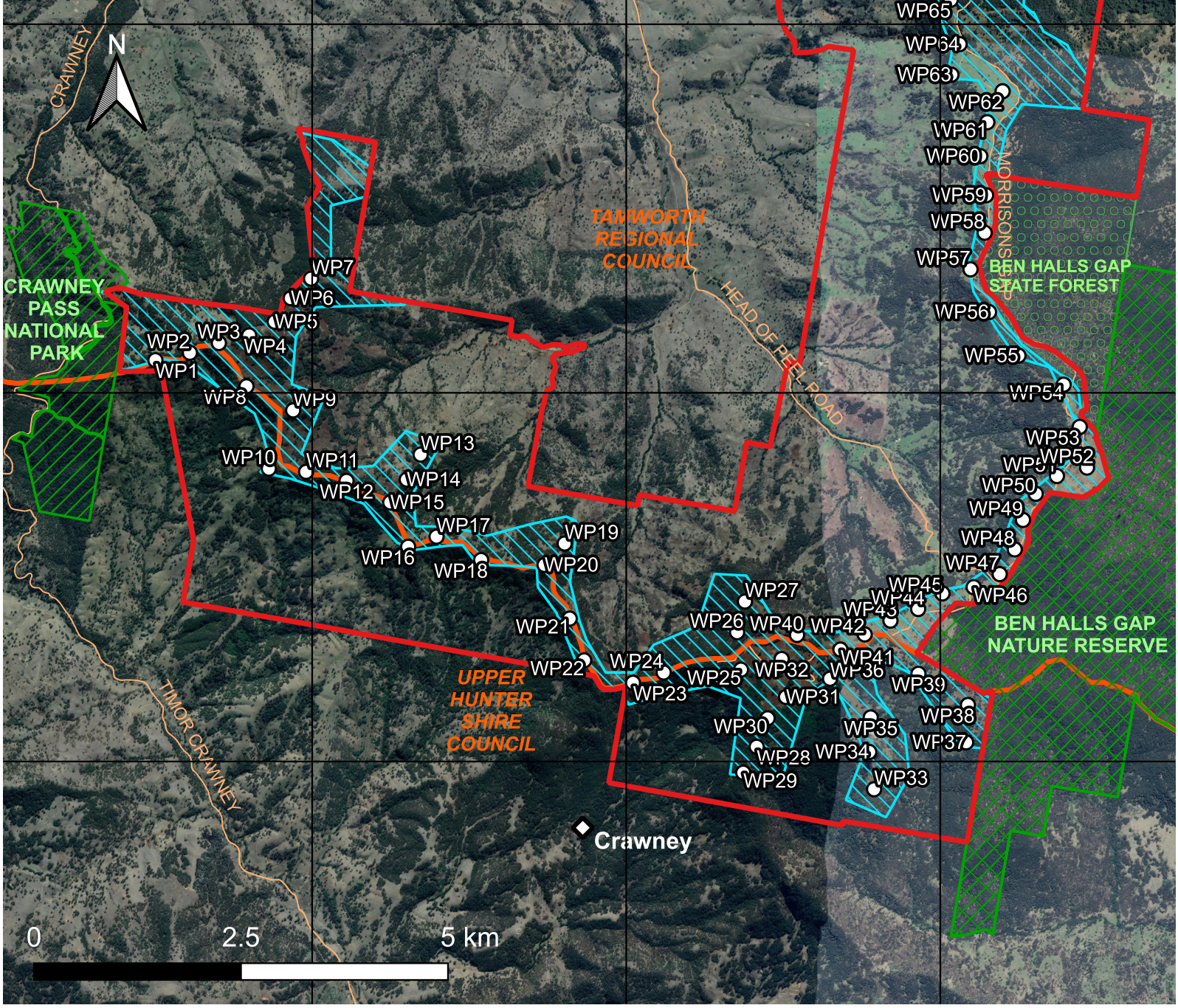




31.560°S

31.600°S

31.640°S



151.080°E

151.120°E

151.160°E



**SOMEVA**  
RENEWABLES

### LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Development Corridor
- Wallabadah & Crawney Pass National Parks
- Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve
- Ben Halls Gap State Forest
- Local Government Area
- Arterial/Minor Roads
- Turbine Area (100m Buffer)
- Towns

Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
Preliminary Layout  
Southern Section of Site

PROJECT: Hills of Gold Wind Farm  
LAST MODIFIED: 26/03/2020  
VERSION: 6

MAP  
3 of 3





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HILLS OF GOLD PRESERVATION INC.  
87 JENKINS STREET NJNDIE NSW 2340

**March 17, 2020**

Dear Mike and Jamie,

HOGP Inc members would like to make an official complaint with regards to the Socio-Economic Assessment and the Preliminary Visual Impact Assessment against the timing and delivery of Turbine Layout.

A number of HOGP Inc. members were approached by SGS Economics and Planning on Friday 13 March 2020 to schedule in private meetings to conduct a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment on the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm project on Wednesday 25 March and Thursday 26 March 2020.

HOGPI members are disappointed and believe that timing for such an assessment is inappropriate as WEP has failed to provide our community with solid and concrete information regarding the proposed wind farm project to date. Our members believe that in order for SGS to conduct an accurate Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, the community would first need to understand the following:

- Proposed turbine placement location
- Proposed transmission line route
- Proposed transport route
- Water/hydrological studies
- Ecological and Biodiversity studies on all areas affected
- Heritage and Cultural Assessment
- Aviation and Communications Assessment
- Visual Montages and Shadow Flickers
- Hazard and Risk Assessments
- Proposed Community Enhancement funds amount and how the funds will be administered.

Without knowledge on any of these facts, members believe that the community is not properly informed and are unable to address their concerns appropriately and accurately.

A few Members have also been contacted today by WEP that a Preliminary Visual Impact Assessment will be conducted this week based upon the updated turbine layout as outlined in the December CCC. Members are aware that the new turbine placements are to be presented at the upcoming CCC meeting on Wednesday 25 March 2020. Members are confused as to why such an assessment is taking place this week with outdated information.

The recent proposal for Socio-Economic and Visual Impact Assessments by WEP is perceived by the community as a box ticking exercise and not performed in a manner where there is genuine concern by WEP to gain accurate assessment results for its upcoming EIS lodgement. The lack of concern for accuracy on these impact studies findings is disappointing to the members of our community.

We look forward to your response on the above matters.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Eather  
Executive member - Hills of Gold Preservation Inc.

Hills of Gold Preservation Inc.  
14th<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Dear HOGP Inc.

**RE: Socio-Economic Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment – Hills of Gold Energy Wind Farm**

Thank you for your patience in providing this response to your concern on the Socio-Economic Assessment and Visual Assessment for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, in reference to the timing and delivery of the updated preliminary layout and other technical assessments.

SGS Economics and Planning (SGS) have been engaged by Wind Energy Partners (WEP) to undertake the socio-economic assessment as part of the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Prior to receipt of your email, we were advised by SGS that several stakeholders they had approached had expressed their preference to meet with SGS following the release of the updated turbine layout. To accommodate these requests, SGS re-scheduled the consultation meetings to be held via teleconference in the week commencing 30th March 2020. The updated turbine layout was delivered to the CCC and broader community on the 25th March 2020, and the CCC Meeting held on 1st April. At the time of writing, we can confirm that SGS has held 10 consultation meetings with stakeholders, and this includes those stakeholders preferring to have meetings with SGS following the turbine layout and CCC meetings. Other stakeholder meetings are scheduled and may occur in the future as part of SGS's assessment.

In instances where stakeholders were approached by SGS Economics and Planning, Wind Energy Partners first consulted with stakeholders to confirm interest in participating in the assessment, and provided the attached memorandum for background information on SGS, their business and what the scope of their assessment was. Where we understood a stakeholder had concerns about their participation in SGS's assessment being represented as support for the project, we advised that participation was voluntary and that stakeholders may discuss their concerns in participating and publication of personal information directly with SGS.

Addressing the issue more broadly about the timing and delivery of the stakeholder consultation phase of SGS's socio-economic assessment and the development schedule, we provide the following information in response and for your consideration:

- The socio-economic assessment must be completed as part of the EIS and in accordance with the Secretaries Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) provided by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The lodgement of an EIS is currently scheduled in November/December 2020, and this has been communicated to HOGP Inc members and the community in CCC meetings, newsletters and other communication forms;
- SGS were selected in January 2020 to undertake the assessment due to the significant experience and technical expertise they have in assessing, quantifying and explaining the social and economic impacts of infrastructure projects. Following engagement, SGS requested specific information related to the project from Wind Energy Partners, in order

for them to perform the socio-economic assessment in accordance with the project SEAR's;

- Upon request, SGS were also provided information and contact details of local businesses and other stakeholders who were identified during community consultation. Whilst we assisted in this regard, SGS were at liberty to consult with other project stakeholders as they considered appropriate to complete the stakeholder consultation phase of the assessment;
- From consultation completed to date, we have received feedback from that further information and opportunity for consultation is needed in order for stakeholders and community members to make an informed decision on the project. In response to this, we announced a Timeline in the December 2019 CCC Meeting whereby the results of socio-economic, transport, hydrological, cultural & heritage, visual montage and shadow-flicker and a number of other technical assessments, as you outlined in your list below, were agreed to be presented to the community in August 2020. This is a commitment to ensure the information learned from these assessments is available for the community to review and consult with WEP prior to lodgement of an EIS and further concerns to be addressed. We have been working closely with our technical consultants since the COVID-19 travel and social distancing restrictions came into effect in the last month, to understand and mitigate where necessary any disruptions to this Timeline and are working towards delivering on this commitment as planned;
- The scope of the stakeholder consultation phase of the socio-economic assessment as provided in the attached memorandum, is to "conduct targeted consultation with stakeholders to better understand the current economic and social function of the area." The scope of this assessment is thus about understanding the existing socio and economic setting in Hanging Rock, Nundle and other municipalities close to the project now, and the social and/or economic opportunities or concerns that stakeholders have in consideration of the project in the future if constructed;
- Whilst we acknowledge and agree that access to information within the technical assessments and EIS is necessary for the community to make an informed decision on the proposal, this is not prohibitive for SGS to perform the scope of their stakeholder consultation phase of the socio-economic assessment in understanding the current local business, tourism, social, etc. functioning and context of the proposal in the area.

With regards to HOGP Inc members being contacted by WEP as part of a preliminary visual assessment, ERM and Moir Landscape Architecture have been engaged to undertake the landscape and visual assessment in accordance with the SEAR's and NSW Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin (DPE, 2016). Specialists from Moir Landscape Architecture attended public viewpoint locations in Hanging Rock, Nundle, Crawney and the areas surrounding the project to conduct a landscape and character assessment in the week commencing 16th March 2020. Part of this included a photographic survey from several key public viewpoint locations, in order to prepare preliminary visual photomontages based on the updated preliminary turbine layout. A number of local residents who had expressed concern on the visual impact of the proposal were contacted during this time, to consult directly with Moir as the technical consultants undertaking the landscape and visual assessment for the project. There will be further opportunities at a later stage for additional residents to consult with Moir on visual impact concerns as part of the landscape and visual assessment.

Finally, recent consultation in the form of SGS contacting local community stakeholders as part of their socio-economic assessment, or Moir Landscape Architecture meeting with local residents on the concerns they have on the visual impact of the proposal from their property, is an integral part of the scope of these individual assessments required to be completed as part of the SEAR's, the applicable legislated guidelines the assessments must follow, and to inform the development of EIS. As such, we

disagree on the assertion it is a box-ticking exercise or that there is a lack of genuine concern in undertaking these tasks as part of the assessments, and posit that this is genuine and necessary consultation required for the project, to ensure the community are engaged and involved at all stages of the design phase and development of the EIS. We will continue to engage and work with HOGP Inc and its members to resolve their concerns on the accuracy of these impact studies going forward, and look forward to presentation of preliminary visual photomontages later this month to obtain further feedback from the community on the updated preliminary layout.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Chivers', written over a horizontal line.

Jamie Chivers  
Managing Director – Wind Energy Partners

[jamie.c@someva.com.au](mailto:jamie.c@someva.com.au)

+61 423 336 345

38 Young St

Sydney NSW 2000



# MEMO

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**To:** Someva Renewables

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**From:** SGS Economics & Planning

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**Date:** 25/02/2020

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**Subject:** Hills of Gold

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Hi Sandra

As discussed at the meeting yesterday, please find attached a one-page profile of SGS explaining our role in the project and the background on the company.

Regards

Rowena

Independent insight.



SGS Economics & Planning has been commissioned by Someva Renewables to complete a socio-economic assessment for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm, near Nundle NSW. SGS has extensive expertise in assessing, quantifying and explaining the social and economic impacts of infrastructure projects.

As part of the socio-economic assessment, SGS will conduct targeted consultation with stakeholders to better understand the current economic and social function of the area.

### About SGS Economics & Planning

SGS is an Australian college of professionals that is collectively owned and operated by its employees. We have major offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart with regional presences in New South Wales and Victoria. We have been in operation for almost 30 years, <https://www.sgsep.com.au/>

Our purpose is to help shape more sustainable places, communities and economies. SGS specialises in:

- Strategic land use planning
- Land market analysis
- Economic and employment analysis and forecasting
- Demographic and economic profiling
- Economic development policy and strategy formulation
- Sustainability.

SGS has a team of over 60 professionals including urban economists, econometricians, town planners, transport analysts, geographers, urban designers and infrastructure specialists. Together, we provide a full suite of technical skills and experience across a broad range of services and industries.

SGS team members take pride in contributing to good decision-making through rigorous research, analysis and advice. We aspire to continuously learn and create new knowledge to constructively contribute to policy debates in both urban and regional areas of Australia.

### SGS OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED AS A B CORP

In October 2017, SGS was officially certified as a B Corp. Becoming a B Corp demonstrates that, as an organisation, we live and breathe our values by applying them to our decision making every single day.

Certified B Corporations are leaders of a global movement of people using business as a force for good. B Corps have committed to meeting the highest standards of overall social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability, and aspire to use the power of business to solve social and environmental problems.

SGS is proud to join more than 2,300 Certified B Corporations worldwide as we progress our purpose of shaping policy and investment decisions to achieve sustainable places, communities and economies, while also contributing to the unifying goal of all B Corps – to redefine success in business.

**Calling all residents in the  
community.**

**IT IS TIME TO HAVE A  
VOICE**

**You are invited to our farm  
TO SAY OUR TOWN WANTS  
AND NEEDS A WIND FARM**

**The Land Paper will be here next  
Thursday or Friday(to be advised) come  
and stand with us.**

**Meet us at the "Malonga" cattle yards  
on Morrison's Gap Road at Hanging  
Rock. Turn right after the dam and  
keep driving until you reach the yards.**

*We want and need a thriving town that is self  
sufficient. We want more people to want to live  
in our community. We need more jobs, better  
services and Facilities for the children and the  
elderly.*

## **Dream and Imagine and then Create**

**The community in our village of Hanging Rock and Nundle are getting older. With the money donated from the wind farm \$2,500 per turbine per year for the next 25 to 35 years. Imagine the self sufficient community we could build.**

**Could some of that money go towards building a retirement village in Nundle so our older community members could live in this town for their whole lives and stay close to their family and friends and get the care that they need with a doctor and health care service available at that village.**

**We could build a smaller indoor swimming pool that could be heated all year round for exercise and swimming lessons for the little ones.**

**At Sheba Dam - Build a playground and include a jumping pillow, flying fox and swings that go into the dam.**

**Keep Using your imagination**



## **A Family Tourist and adventure park at the wind farm**

**Which will create long term employment for people**

- **A possible 300 to 400 metre snow ski run in winter**
- **Toboggan rides down the hill**
- **Mountain bike riding**
- **Horse trails**
- **walking trails and buggy tour rides**
- **Inflatable ball rides down the air strip.**
- **Inflatable ball rides across a dam**
- **trout fishing**
- **cabins**
- **paddle boats**
- **An indoor family fun centre with a rock climbing wall and ninja warrior course.**

**Could you please forget about the visual affect of the wind farm for a minute and imagine the benefits that can be gained from it.**

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP  
AND PLEASE USE YOU IMAGINATION.**

# Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment assessment requirements

## Guidelines for preparing assessment documentation relevant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for proposals being assessed under an Accredited NSW Assessment Process

### Hills of Gold Wind Farm (EPBC 2019/8535) (SSD 9679)

#### Introduction

1. On 23 December 2019, a delegate of the Federal Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (formerly Department of Environment and Energy) determined that the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project was a controlled action under section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed action are:
  - i. listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
  - ii. listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
2. The proposed action will be assessed in accordance with the *NSW Bilateral Agreement relating to environmental assessment 2015* and as such, is required to be assessed in the manner specified in Schedule 1 to that Agreement including, addressing the matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations).
3. The proponent must undertake an assessment of all protected matters that may be impacted by the development under the controlling provision identified in paragraph 1. The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment considers that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on threatened species and communities and migratory species listed in **Appendix A**.
4. The proponent must consider each of the protected matters under the triggered controlling provisions that may be impacted by the action. Note that this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to undertake an analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts and ensure that all protected matters that are likely to be significantly impacted are assessed for the Commonwealth Minister's consideration.

#### **General Requirements**

##### Relevant Regulations

5. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address all matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and all the matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.

##### Project Description

6. The title of the action, background to the action of the action and current status.
7. The precise location and description of all works to be undertaken (including associated offsite works and infrastructure), structures to be built or elements of the action that may have impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
8. How the action relates to any other actions that have been, or are being taken in the region affected by the action.

9. How the works are to be undertaken and design parameters for those aspects of the structures or elements of the action that may have relevant impacts on MNES.

### Impacts

10. The EIS must include an assessment of the relevant impacts of the action on the matters protected by the controlling provisions, including:
  - i. a description and detailed assessment of the nature and extent of the likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts, including short term and long term relevant impacts;
  - ii. a statement whether any relevant impacts are likely to be unknown, unpredictable or irreversible;
  - iii. analysis of the significance of the relevant impacts; and
  - iv. any technical data and other information used or needed to make a detailed assessment of the relevant impacts.

### Avoidance, mitigation and offsetting

11. For each of the relevant matters protected that are likely to be significantly impacted by the action, the EIS must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to manage the relevant impacts of the action including:
  - i. a description, and an assessment of the expected or predicted effectiveness of the mitigation measures,
  - ii. any statutory policy basis for the mitigation measures;
  - iii. the cost of the mitigation measures;
  - iv. an outline of an environmental management plan that sets out the framework for continuing management, mitigation and monitoring programs for the relevant impacts of the action, including any provisions for independent environmental auditing;
  - v. the name of the agency responsible for endorsing or approving each mitigation measure or monitoring program.
12. Where a significant residual adverse impact to a relevant protected matter is considered likely, the EIS must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit associated with the proposed offset strategy.
13. For each of the relevant matters likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide reference to, and consideration of, relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including any:
  - i. conservation advice or recovery plan for the species or community,
  - ii. relevant threat abatement plan for a process that threatens the species or community
  - iii. wildlife conservation plan for the species
  - iv. any strategic assessment.

[Note: the relevant guidelines and policy statements for each species and community are available from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Species Profile and Threats Database.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>]

## Key Issues

### Biodiversity (threatened species and communities and migratory species)

#### Assessment Requirements

14. The EIS must identify each EPBC Act listed threatened species and community and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action. For any species and communities that are likely to be impacted, the proponent must provide a description of the nature, quantum and consequences of the impacts. For species and communities potentially located in the project area or in the vicinity that are not likely to be impacted, provide evidence why they are not likely to be impacted.
15. For each of the EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities and migratory species likely to be impacted by the action the EIS must provide a separate:
  - a. description of the habitat (including identification and mapping of suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival), with consideration of, and reference to, any relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including listing advice, conservation advice and recovery plans;
  - b. details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Australian Government guidelines and policy statements;
  - c. description of the relevant impacts of the action having regard to the full national extent of the species or community's range; and
  - d. description of the specific proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with relevant impacts of the action;
  - e. identification of significant residual adverse impacts likely to occur after the proposed activities to avoid and mitigate all impacts are taken into account;
  - f. description of any offsets proposed to address residual adverse significant impacts and how these offsets will be established.
  - g. details of how the current published NSW Biodiversity Assessment Methodology has been applied in accordance with the objects of the EPBC Act to offset significant residual adverse impacts; and
  - h. details of the offset package to compensate for significant residual impacts including details of the credit profiles required to offset the action in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and/or mapping and descriptions of the extent and condition of the relevant habitat and/or threatened communities occurring on proposed offset sites;

[Note: For the purposes of approval under the EPBC Act, it is a requirement that offsets directly contribute to the ongoing viability of the specific protected matter impacted by a proposed action and deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the MNES i.e. 'like for like'. Like-for-like includes protection of native vegetation that is the same ecological community or habitat being impacted (preferably in the same region where the impact occurs), or funding to provide a direct benefit to the matter being impacted e.g. threat abatement, breeding and propagation programs or other relevant conservation measures.
16. Any significant residual impacts not addressed by the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Methodology may need to be addressed in accordance with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offset Policy.



<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/epbc-act-environmental-offsets-policy>.

### **Other approvals and conditions**

17. Information in relation to any other approvals or conditions required must include the information prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 5 (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the EPBC Regulations 2000.

### **Environmental Record of person proposing to take the action**

18. Information in relation to the environmental record of a person proposing to take action must include details as prescribed in Schedule 4 Clause 6 of the EPBC Regulations 2000.

### **Information Sources**

19. For information given in the EIS, the EIS must state the source of the information, how recent the information is, how the reliability of the information was tested; and what uncertainties (if any) are in the information.

## **REFERENCES**

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* - section 51-55, section 96A(3)(a)(b), 101A(3)(a)(b), section 136, section 527E
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 Schedule 4*
- NSW Assessment Bilateral Agreement (2015) - Item 18.1, Item 18.5, Schedule 1
- *Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1* (2013) EPBC Act
- *Environment Protect and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy* October 2012

## Appendix A

### Proposed site

Based on the information in the referral documentation, the location of the action, species records and likely habitat present in the area, there are likely to be significant impacts to:

- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community listed as **critically endangered**.
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) listed as **critically endangered**.
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) listed as **critically endangered**.
- Booroolong Frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) listed as **endangered**.
- Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) which is listed as **migratory**.

In addition, there is some risk that there may be significant impacts on the following matters and levels of impact should be further investigated.

- Small Snake Orchid (*Diuris pedunculata*) listed as **endangered**.
- Blackbutt Candlebark (*Eucalyptus rubida* subsp. *barbigerorum*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Fragrant Pepperbush (*Tasmannia glaucifolia*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*) (SE mainland population) listed as **endangered**.
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) listed as **vulnerable**.
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- *Euphrasia arguta* listed as **critically endangered**.

### Transport route

Further information is required during the assessment stage to determine the extent of potential impacts to the following protected matters from impacts associated with transporting project components to the proposed site:

- New England Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nova-anglica*) Grassy Woodlands ecological community listed as **critically endangered**.
- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia ecological community listed as **critically endangered**.
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community listed as **critically endangered**.
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) listed as **critically endangered**.
- *Euphrasia arguta* listed as **critically endangered**.
- Small Snake Orchid (*Diuris pedunculata*) listed as **endangered**.
- *Zieria lasiocaulis* listed as **endangered**.
- *Diuris eborensis* listed as **endangered**.
- White-flowered Wax Plant (*Cynanchum elegans*) – **endangered**.

- Milky Silkpod (*Parsonsia dorrigoensis*) – **endangered**.
- *Grevillea guthrieana* listed as **endangered**.
- Craven Grey Box (*Eucalyptus largeana*) listed as **endangered**.
- *Solanum sulphureum* listed as **endangered**.
- Blackbutt Candlebark (*Eucalyptus rubida* subsp. *barbigerorum*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) (combined populations of Old, NSW and the ACT) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Earp's Gum (*Eucalyptus parramattensis* subsp. *decadens*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Austral Toadflax (*Thesium australe*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Leafless Tongue-orchid (*Cryptostylis hunteriana*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Fragrant Pepperbush (*Tasmannia glaucifolia*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nicholii*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Long-nosed Potoroo (SE Mainland) (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- Tall Velvet Sea-berry (*Haloragis exalata* subsp. *velutina*) listed as **vulnerable**.
- *Hakea archaeoides* listed as **vulnerable**.

**Note:** uncertainty around the extent and number of protected matters that may be impacted will need to be resolved through the assessment process once final alignment and construction plans have been completed.

**Note:** this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure any protected matters under these controlling provisions are assessed for the Commonwealth decision-maker's consideration.

Good morning David

I attach a link to an Independent Planning Commission Submission for White Rock Wind Farm MOD 6 regarding support for aircraft detection aviation lighting system to balance the adverse impacts of hazard lighting on area residents.

"The adverse visual impact of the aviation lighting on specified turbines within Sapphire Wind Farm is an unfortunate reality for Danthonia Bruderhof's residents."

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/project-submissions/2019/08/white-rock-wind-farm-mod-6/20191014t140212/20191014-cca-submission-to-the-independent-planning-commission-re-wrwf-mod-6.pdf>

Also, minutes from Sapphire Wind Farm CCC. Reading through all the minutes of Sapphire Wind Farm CCC aviation lighting is a recurring issue. A few excerpts:

6th February, 2018 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Finalised-minutes-SWF-CCC- -6-February-2018.pdf>

"The lights have been turned on and complaints have already been received from neighbours on the impact that they are having on the amenity of the area."

"Not all turbines have to be lit if there is a distance of 900m between them. However, 41 towers on the Sapphire site will have red flashing lights on them."

3rd May 2018 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Finalised-minutes-SWF-CCC- -3-May-2018.pdf>

"To date there has been eight complaints."

"..Danthonia community...have voiced their significant concerns as well as representations from the Swan Vale representative on behalf of her community."

3rd July 2018 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Finalised-minutes-SWF-CCC- -3-July-2018.pdf>

"...Vesta's Intelilight system, which is able to be retrofitted to the existing project at a cost of \$1.5-\$2M. Unfortunately, the funds were not budgeted for and none are available."

"CASA acknowledges that the lights are obtrusive and offensive, it insists that the turbines will create a risk if they are not light."

"...there have been 13 formal complaints about the lights of which 3 are follow up complaints."

"AS enquired whether the lighting issue had been included in the neighbour agreements."

30th October, 2018 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Finalised-minutes-SWF-CCC- -30-October-2018.pdf>

"AA has requested DPE provide clarity around this issue with a definitive condition, ie review prior to construction, as it's not good enough to occur after construction.

It was agreed that the community were not aware of the potential lighting issue. PM confirmed that the information was contained with the EIS, however, was reliant on the comments from CASA."

22nd January 2019 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Finalised-minutes-SWF-CCC-22-January-2019.pdf>

"All committee members stated that the only acceptable outcome for Sapphire would be "no" lights."

30th April, 2019 <https://www.sapphirewindfarm.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/11-Finalised-Minutes-from-SWF-CCC-30-4-19.pdf>

"Whilst the lights at the reduced illumination of 10% is an improvement, all feedback received at the CCC to date is consistent that the community are opposed to any lighting being seen. Clearly - the community don't want them turned down - they want them off."

Thank you,  
MT