

Minutes: Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Hills of Gold Windfarm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
Held at the Tamworth Regional Council Office, Nundle

Wednesday, 18 September 2019

Members Present: Sandra Agudelo (SA) – Someva Representative, Kay Burnes (KB) – Tamworth Regional Council, Michael Chamberlain (MC) – Community Representative, Teresa Eather (TE) – Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group Representative (alternate), John Krsjula (JK) – Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Representative, Bruce Moore (BM) – Community Representative (alternate), Christine Robinson (CR) – Upper Hunter Shire Council, Margaret Schofield (MSc) – Community Representative, Peter Schofield (PS) – Community Representative, Michael Stranger (MS) – Someva Representative, Ian Worley (IW) – Community Representative

Apologies: Marcia Ajani (MA) – Community Representative, Donna Ausling (DA) – Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Jamie Chivers (JC) – Wind Energy Partners Representative, Simon Chivers (SC) – Someva Representative, Megan Trousdale (MT) – Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group Representative

Independent Chair: David Ross (DR)

Secretary: Corinne Culbert-Rafferty (CCR)

Agenda Items	Who to Present
1. Welcome & Apologies	David Ross
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests	David Ross & All
3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting	All
4. Previous Minutes	All
5. Presentation on Biodiversity Assessment	Michael Stranger & Sandra Agudelo
6. Presentation on Heritage Assessment	Michael Stranger & Sandra Agudelo
7. General Business a. Frequency of Meetings	All
8. Next Meeting – TBA	All

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies Meeting commenced at 6:35pm. DR advised of resignation of Marcia Ajani due to personal reasons. DR reminded that the CCC aimed to represent all views of the community and whilst doing so, to always maintain respect to each other.</p>	DR to recommend replacement for Marcia Ajani to DPIE.
2.	<p>Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests DR advised that he was paid a fee to chair the meeting as is CCR for taking the meeting minutes.</p>	
3.	<p>Business Arising from Previous Meeting After a discussion was held to clarify the information that MS and SA were presenting in relation to the agenda, MS requested to provide additional important project information of relevance to issues raised by CCC members in the previous meeting</p> <p>Community Enhancement Fund While responses had previously been provided to the CCC on outstanding actions from the previous meeting, MS discussed the Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) via a slideshow presentation (page 5) (<i>attached</i>). Details were outlined in this document of the establishment and administration of the CEF. A lengthy discussion was held on the fund with a CCC member expressing concern at where the money could be used. The member tabled examples of Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) for wind farm projects that showed the variability across CEF's in terms of the funding made available per MW. For example, \$1,250/MW and \$3,000/turbine were offered in other proposed wind farm sites in NSW. Alternatively, a proportion may be used on road maintenance (see <i>attached</i>). MS outlined specific examples of ways in which CEF funding could be used in the local community and that multiple scenarios for administration were possible. A member queried whether the figure of \$2,500/turbine offered by WEP is negotiable. MS noted that this amount is what WEP is proposing to offer to the CEF at this stage. It was confirmed by Council representatives and DR that the CEF, potentially as part of a wider VPA, would require a negotiation between the three Councils and WEP and the Department of Planning to determine the detail. Should the proposal be approved, the agreement would also identify the structure of the CEF, which could be anything from a community advisory committee through to a Trust. Furthermore, the Councils anticipate that, should the proposal be approved, they (the Councils) would consult with the community during negotiations to gain their input into where monies could be allocated. It really is a long way off being finalised.</p> <p>MS proposed a separate Community Enhancement Fund Workshop be undertaken for further discussion with the CCC. While the workshop may not occur until well into 2020 or later, a workshop will provide feedback for the design of a draft CEF and prior to finalising and submitting as part of the project Development Application. A workshop for the CCC is to really help understand how it works and what can be contributed. The CCC agreed to this.</p> <p>Site Visit</p>	MS to organise Community Enhancement Fund Workshop in early 2020

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>November/December site visit proposed. There are requirements to gain access onto the Project site with landowners.</p> <p>Job Forecasts MS discussed job forecasts via a slideshow presentation (page 3) (<i>attached</i>). A member questioned how accurate the figures were and MS advised that the figures used in calculations were from identified projects' Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and not actual numbers. A member raised whether the jobs referred to were in fact full-time or part-time jobs? A member raised what jobs would be actually allocated in Nundle and what the actual job titles would be and whether perhaps training would be required for such jobs. MS proceeded through the presentation wherein the types of construction and operation jobs were outlined.</p> <p>A member questioned when construction is concluded, where do the positions go and if they were leaving a current role, would they be able to find a replacement job. MS advised that jobs could be fulfilled by locals wherever possible. He confirmed that it is a commitment of the project to create local job opportunities, and updated figures would be available in time. The member further questioned what impacts this would have on employment requirements for other businesses. DR observed that this highlighted the importance of having a CCC meeting, sometime, on socio-economic benefits and impacts associated with the proposal so these issues could be discussed in further detail. SA pointed out that the EIS will include a socio-economic impact component, which is part of the project State Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's).</p> <p>A member asked what the worst-case scenario would be rather than the best case. MS said he would acquire updated figures on Sapphire and White Rock projects to present at the next meeting.</p>	<p>MS to present numbers for jobs based on recent reports of actual projects constructed and whether jobs are full time or part time.</p> <p>MS to present actual job data on White Rock and Sapphire projects.</p>
4.	<p>Previous Minutes A member objected that, contrary to what DR said at the last meeting, if the primary representative of a particular stakeholder group cannot attend the CCC, DR does not choose who the alternate is. The CCC guidelines state that the stakeholder group decides. DR agreed to this point but noted that, in practice, what he had said at the last meeting would still meet those needs. That is, he would be seeking an alternate that was a "like for like" replacement in consultation with that group. He had done this when MT was an apology for the present meeting.</p> <p>The CCC endorsed the minutes as an acceptable reflection of what was discussed at the previous meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Project Announcement - Engie MS and SA presented information on a new commercial arrangement with ENGIE, a French energy company with 103GW of energy capacity installed and over 160,000 employees worldwide (page 11) (<i>attached</i>).. They are a long-term owner and operator of renewable infrastructure and have recently finished construction on the Willogoleche Wind Farm project in South Australia. WEP will remain as Developer for the project and receive financial, technical and commercial support from Engie.</p>	

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6.	<p>Presentation on Biodiversity Assessment</p> <p>SA presented on the key aspects of the Wind Farm Development Process outlining Technical, Environmental, Social and Economical aspects. A timetable was presented with the estimated timeframe to complete the SEAR's, which were issued in November 2018 (please see <i>attached</i> presentation).</p> <p>Refer to “8. Survey” (page 25) within the <i>attached</i> slideshow presentation for detailed information.</p> <p>The consulting firm ARUP is undertaking the necessary surveys. Spring Surveys were undertaken in November 2018 and recent Winter Surveys in August 2019, with further surveys to be undertaken. As part of the biodiversity assessment, WEP will call on the specialist consultants Biosis and their Bird Collisions Risk Data Collection – Avian Turbine Collision Risk Model to determine the risk of impacts on birds.</p> <p>Under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, there is a requirement to determine what listed threatened flora & fauna may exist in the area, based on individual species identification as well as the types of habitat that are present, so and assessment of impact can be made. A proposed action then needs to be referred to the Commonwealth if there is potential for significant impact. The Minister will have twenty (20) business days to make a decision.</p> <p>The referral would be put on public exhibition, enabling the public to comment.</p> <p>The EPBC Act is a Commonwealth Act. The Proponent has to cover requirements from the Commonwealth and State. The current provided SEARs are from the NSW Department of Planning. The information in the EPBC referral includes a preliminary biodiversity and EPBC Act Impact Assessment, which includes outcomes of previous desktop assessments and field surveys.</p> <p>A member questioned how studies are being undertaken during the present drought period (since 1 January 2017) as species that could normally be there but currently are not. How are these current conditions relevant to the assessment process? MS noted that current climate conditions will be considered by ARUP in biodiversity survey reports and EIS. The biodiversity surveys are undertaken over the course of a few years as well as consider desktop assessments. Therefore, even if species aren't identified over the duration of the surveys, consideration is given to what species have been identified previously or may be in the area based on the types of habitats present.</p> <p>A member tabled a Flora and Fauna Report prepared by a local ecologist (see <i>attached</i>). SA is happy to cross reference species lists from report with biodiversity surveys completed to date.</p>	<p>MS to advise CCC when referral is publicly available.</p> <p>The tabled Flora and Fauna Report to be considered by WEP in their biodiversity assessment.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>A member asked that the Barnard River Wild Dog Control Association Management Plan 2018 be reviewed and considered in the preparation of the surveys and impact assessment. It was prepared by the Regional Managers of State Forests and National Parks. It contains the appropriate agreed management for Wild Dogs.</p> <p>A member also mentioned Crawley Pass and the thirteen (13) threatened species that had been identified there (including the Booroolong Frog).</p>	<p>The Barnard River Wild Dog Control Association Management Plan 2018 is to be provided to WEP.</p>
7.	<p>Presentation on Heritage Assessment</p> <p>Refer to “9. Survey” (page 28) within the <i>attached</i> slideshow presentation for detailed information.</p> <p>A Preliminary Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment was completed. A desktop Aboriginal Heritage Impact Management System (AHIMS) search was undertaken and five (5) objects have been found to be located in the study area, and these areas will be avoided. They are with respect to Aboriginal Heritage Sensitivity.</p> <p>A review and impact assessment of non indigenous cultural heritage will be undertaken using information from a number of heritage registers, including within the Council Local Environment Plan (LEP). A member noted that there are local items considered by the public to be of heritage value that aren’t captured by the various registers; for instance, the Lutana Site and Yellow Rock aren’t on the list. The community will need to be consulted. MS confirmed that heritage sites important to the local community will be incorporated into the CHAR via the community consultation process.</p> <p>A final Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR) is required as part of the heritage assessment process. Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd will undertake this report as sub-consultant to ARUP.</p> <p>Transport Route Assessment</p> <p>A Transport Route Assessment was recently completed. This assessment included potential routes from Port of Newcastle to Nundle, and Nundle to the Site Boundary. A member raised the point of traffic impact during construction on local traffic flows during school periods, etc. A Traffic Management Plan would address timing and be prepared prior to construction. MS reviewed correspondence received from residents who live on Morrisons Gap Road, and noted that Morrison Gap Road has not been confirmed as the final primary route. It is anticipated that the final route may be identified by mid-2020. Carrying capacity was also investigated as part of transport assessment. Weight will be addressed when wind farm and turbine design has been finalised.</p> <p>Dust suppression will be addressed within the Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the Traffic Management Plan. WEP have not undertaken discussion with the Councils or DPIE regarding sealing of Morrison Road for the project but will consider it when assessing the preferred route and impacts to residents. Potential damage to roads caused by construction</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>and operation would be assessed as part of the EIS and an agreement with Council made to repair any damage. If proposal is approved, with respect to roads, this would be addressed in conditions of approval with the opportunity for input from Councils. All wind farm turbine components will be addressed in the traffic management plan.</p> <p>A CCC member relayed some correspondence from a community member questioning what compensation there would be for their local business (Air B n B) when disrupted due to road congestion. It was noted that, as these are early days and the transport route and traffic management plan will not be finalised for some time, no answers can be provided for these questions yet.</p> <p>Project Progress – 2 x meteorological masts had been installed and commissioned in July 2019. These are designed to operate for 5 years. See page 21 of the attached slideshow presentation.</p>	
8.	<p>General Business</p> <p>A member submitted the Wind Farm Commissioners Report Observations, questioning whether locating turbines on ridges is indeed the ideal location. They believed that this contradicted what was said in the previous CCC meeting by WEP. DR noted that, when the CCC believes it is appropriate, the National Wind Farm Commissioner Andrew Dyer could be invited to come along to a meeting and respond to these questions (as Andrew, himself, has offered).</p> <p>A member advised that the majority of the Nundle Community oppose this project and was tabling forty plus questions. DR was happy to accept this document. However, he felt it was important to set the expectation with the CCC and the wider community that many of their questions may not have answers yet. These would be answered over the course of the next two years or so as the proponent continues the development process and environmental impact assessment to support DA submission.</p> <p>DR also noted that, in the past, CCCs were set up once something had been approved – for during the construction and operation phases. It has been quite rare to involve communities so early in a proposal but Department of Planning saw much value in doing that for this proposal. Of great importance is that the CCC can provide WEP with input and feedback and shape the impact assessment will before what would otherwise have been the case. An Environmental Assessment may miss these things so it is important that this information is brought forward and considered.</p> <p>Forty-two residencies have been identified as affected within a 3 km radius of the proposed project boundary. This could equate to approx. eighty people in a community of approx. 500. The previous minutes mentioned that this was “not a lot” it has been requested that this reference be removed. DR noted that while he has final say on the minutes, he confirmed that he would remove this reference.</p>	<p>DR to remove reference to “not a lot” in previous minutes.</p> <p>SA to create updated timetable in order to</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
	<p>A member raised on behalf of a stakeholder group some issues that came out of the last meeting. It was requested that the frequency of the meetings be increased to a minimum of every two (2) months perhaps. DR suggested that the meeting frequency reflect when news from the proponent is available. Therefore, meetings could certainly be held more frequently, dependent on when there is information to discuss. A very broad timetable is presently in place but SA will look to create a calendar by early next year with relevant dates around various specialist studies. DR noted a conversation could then be held in order to schedule meetings for the rest of 2020 beyond simply holding quarterly meetings.</p> <p>The member also raised the issue of why members’ initials weren’t included in the minutes when they raised a matter and that this should be changed. DR advised that he didn’t put in initials into the previous minutes (with the exception of his and the proponents) as he wanted to create an environment in meetings where people felt comfortable that views could be shared without anyone feeling worried about what they were saying.</p> <p>A member has lodged a complaint as they were contacted by a host land owner advising that his property is private property and this member would not be permitted access.</p> <p>DR said this is a prime example of why initials weren’t included within the minutes, in order to respect the sensitivities that may be occurring within the community as a result of the proposal. A vote was undertaken regarding initials being used within the minutes and there was a majority in agreement to not use initials within the minutes.</p> <p>Regarding the site trip for November/December, a member requested whether the “alternate” CCC applicants could be included for this purpose. DR to look into this.</p> <p>A member queried whether “alternates” could attend meetings as observers, in order to have the continuity if CCC members were apologies. DR confirmed that the DPIE had advised that alternates may not attend however will ask the Department again.</p> <p>A member queried how are landowners in the current investigation area being informed? What actions are WEP taking to consult with the land owners. Further, should WEP be liaising with Real Estate Agents in area so that buyers are informed? MS confirmed that WEP continue to be in ongoing discussions with wind farm and transmission area landowners Information is available to be included by vendors in the sale process. WEP will consult with anyone within a 3km buffer area. WEP agrees with Wind Farm Commissioner recommendations on project information being given to a potential land buyer as part of sale due diligence.</p> <p>It was raised by a member that this meeting went on for far too long. DR agreed noting that moving forward, there should only be one topic per meeting. He noted that, further to his prior commitment to the CCC, he would call for feedback as to his chairing of the meetings at the next meeting.</p>	<p>set future CCC meeting schedule</p> <p>DR to look into whether “alternates” can attend Site Visit.</p> <p>DR to contact DPIE to see if alternates can attend meetings they are not filling in for.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
5.	Next Meeting Date TBA	MS to advise a few date options late November/early December for Site Visit Meeting.

Meeting Closed: 10.20pm

Appendix 1: ACTIONS

Page No	Action No	Description	Date Raised	Date Completed
3	1	MT to provide DR details of local media contacts so that they can be informed of the CCC's commencement.	Meeting 1 - 12 June 2019	18 Sept 2019
4	2	WEP to present at next meeting on forecast calculations.	Meeting 1 - 12 June 2019	18 Sept 2019
4	3	DR and JC to identify who administers the CEF.	Meeting 1 - 12 June 2019	Closed, addressed in Item 7.
5	4	JC to look into a site trip for our Nov/Dec meeting.	Meeting 1 - 12 June 2019	Closed, addressed in Item 8.
2	5	DR to recommend replacement for Marcia Ajani to DPIE.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
2	6	MS to organise Community Enhancement Fund Workshop in early 2020.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
3	7	MS to present numbers for jobs based on recent reports of actual projects constructed and whether jobs are full time or part time	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
3	8	MS to present actual job data on White Rock and Sapphire projects.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
4	9	MS to notify CCC when EPBC Act referral is publicly available.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
4	10	The tabled Flora and Fauna Report to be shared with WEP and WEP to consider in their biodiversity assessment.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
5	11	The Barnard River Wild Dog Control Association Management Plan 2018 is to be provided to WEP.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
7	12	DR to remove reference to “not a lot” in previous minutes.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
7	13	SA to create updated timetable in order to set future CCC meeting schedule	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
7	14	DR to look into whether “alternates” can attend Site Visit.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
7	15	DR to contact DPIE to see if alternates can attend meetings they are not filling in for.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	

8	16	MS to advise a few date options late November/early December for Site Visit.	Meeting 2 – 18 Sept 2019	
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**HILLS OF GOLD
ENERGY**



**Community Consultative Committee
September 2019**



**SOMEVA
RENEWABLES**

CCC Meeting Agenda



SOMEVA
RENEWABLES

1. Previous Minutes/Actions Review
 - Job Forecasts
 - Community Enhancement Fund
 - Site Visit
2. Project Announcement
3. Wind Farm Development
 - Life Cycle
 - Key Aspects
 - Timetable
 - Development Advisors
4. Project Progress Update
 - EPBC Act Referral Assessment Process
 - Meteorological Masts
 - Transport Route Assessment
 - Transport Case Study
5. Biodiversity Survey Methodologies
6. Heritage Survey Methodologies



1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Job Forecasts

Forecasts presented in the PEA were taken from construction/operational jobs for other wind farms proposed in the New England and NSW area including:

Wind Farm	Size	Construction Jobs	Operational Jobs
Sapphire	270	150	20
White Rock	175	166	7
Glen Innes	81	85	20
Crudine Ridge	134	75	N/A
Average Jobs/MW		0.8 Jobs/MW	0.09 Jobs/MW
Hills of Gold Assumptions		0.7Jobs/MW	0.08 Jobs/MW
Hills of Gold Job Forecasts	410	272	34



1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

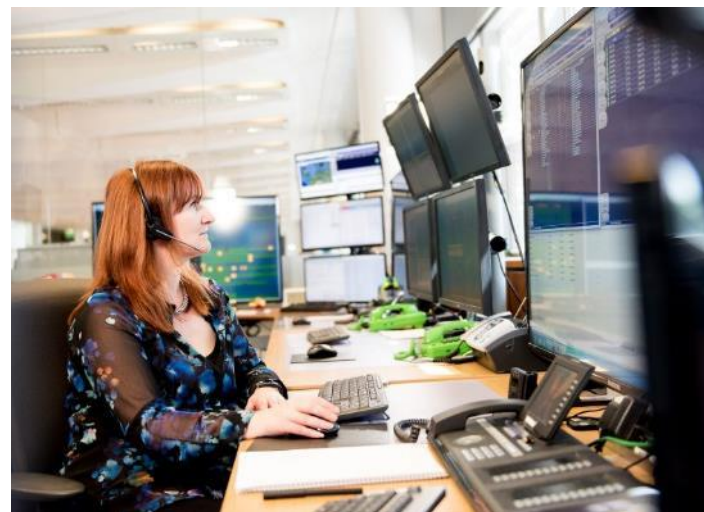
Job Forecasts : types of Construction Jobs

Trades

- Electrical Trades
- Mechanical Trades
- Building Trades
- Rigging
- Mobile Plant Operator / Truck Driver
- Cleaning
- Crane Operators
- Labourer / Trades Assistant
- Metal Trades
- Health & Safety
- Supervisors
- Landscaping
- Administration
- Health and Safety

Suppliers

- Labour
- Sand
- Water
- Crushed rock
- Cement
- Gravel
- Equipment hire(tractors, graders, etc)





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1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Community Enhancement Fund

Key Elements :



1. Purpose and Objective



2. Establishment and Administration



3. Funding Eligibility Criteria



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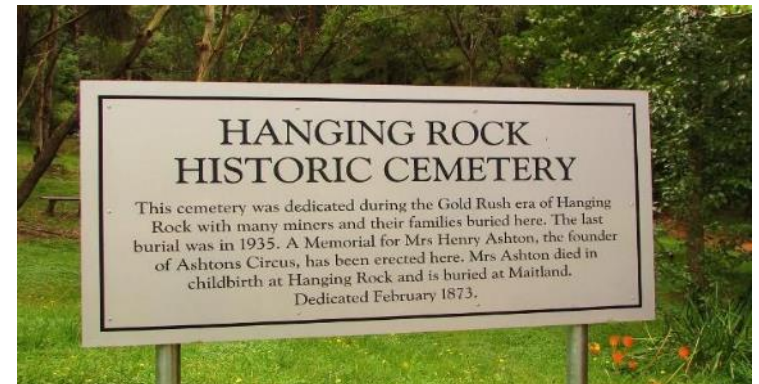
1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Community Enhancement Fund



1. Purpose and Objective

- **Support Existing Community Initiatives**
 - *Examples: Go for Gold Festival, Nundle Great Dog Race*
- **Support and Build Strong Communities**
 - *Example: Upgrading community buildings and facilities such as the Nundle Memorial Hall and Hanging Rock Community Hall*
- **Preserve and Enhance Historic Places**
 - *Example: Hanging Rock Historic Places*





1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Community Enhancement Fund



2. Establishment and Administration

Background	Community Management Committee under S355 provide an opportunity for local communities to develop ownership of facilities and services and play an active role in the provision of them”
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience in Nundle and Hanging Rock (i.e., Hanging Rock Community Hall, Nundle Go for Gold) and transparency through existing Council guidelines ○ Can become legally required when submitted along with Development Application for inclusion under Conditions of Approval ○ Currently the most common way within NSW of administering community enhancement funds
Appointment of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Independently run by local community representatives with active involvement in the community on behalf of Council ○ Members must represent diverse views across the community and should be rotated at regular intervals ○ Alternatively could be administered by the Community Consultative Committee under the guidelines
Governance	<p>Strong governance and guidelines available covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responsibilities and Appointment of Members ○ Meetings ○ Risk Management ○ Sustainability ○ Finance ○ Code of Conduct
Funding Rounds	Proposed to administer 2 rounds of funding per year against agreed criteria
Further reading	<p>https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/Council/Community-Management-s355-Committees</p> <p>https://epuron.com.au/documents/64/Survey-report-26-August-2016-Part1.pdf</p>
Other structures	Can be administered under Incorporated or unincorporated charities/trusts with specific charter



1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Community Enhancement Fund



3. Funding Eligibility Criteria

Communities to Benefit

- Within 20km of Turbines
- Specific Communities (i.e, Hanging Rock, Nundle, Crawney)



Assessment Criteria Guide

1. Purpose and Objective

- 1. Support Existing Community Initiatives**
- 2. Support and Build Strong Communities**
- 3. Preserve and Enhance Historic Places**

- Direct and indirect community benefit and community need
- Demographics served
- Demonstration of need for financial assistance
- Project/ program viability
- Background of applicant
- The extent to which project or program duplicates other available facilities or programs in the area



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1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Community Enhancement Fund Proposed Next Steps



Community Enhancement Fund Workshop?



**Receive Feedback and Input into Community
Enhancement Fund Design**



**WEP Prepare Draft Community Enhancement Fund
Design**

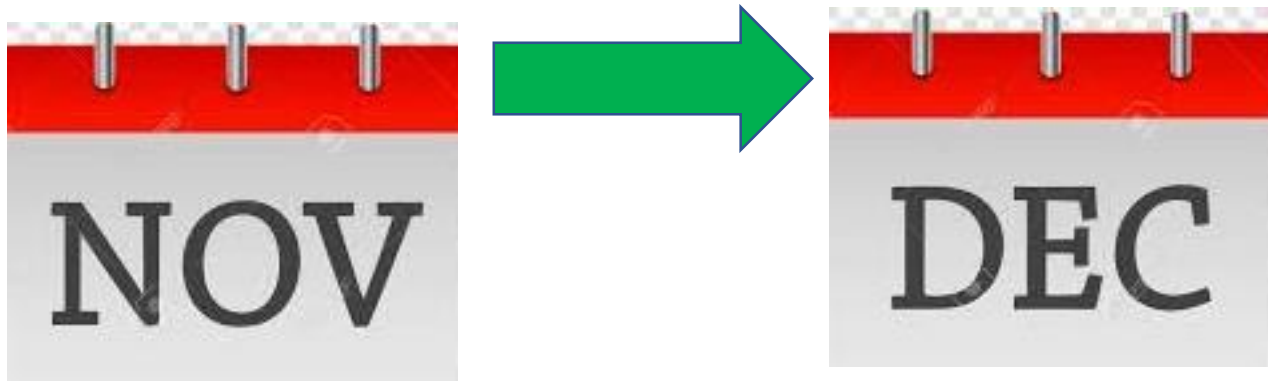


1. Previous CCC Meeting Minutes/Actions Review

Site Visit

JC to look into a site trip for our Nov / Dec meeting

- Biodiversity/ecology spring surveys scheduled for October (key CCC and community focus);
- Timing allows opportunity for presentation on survey methodologies and preliminary survey results from winter/spring surveys;
- Available anytime towards end of November and start of December





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2. Project Announcement : ENGIE

- Providing financial, technical and commercial support to WEP to continue HOGWF development and, subject to successful project permits and financial close, would construct and operate the wind farm.
- WEP remain as Proponent/Developer
- French energy company with over 160,000 employees worldwide
- A world leader in the zero-carbon energy transition
- 103 GW installed worldwide, with over 25% renewables
- Long-term Owner/Operator of renewables
- ENGIE's Australian projects include:



***Willogoleche Wind Farm, SA (119MW);
completed construction in 2019***



***Pelican Point power
station, SA (485MW)***

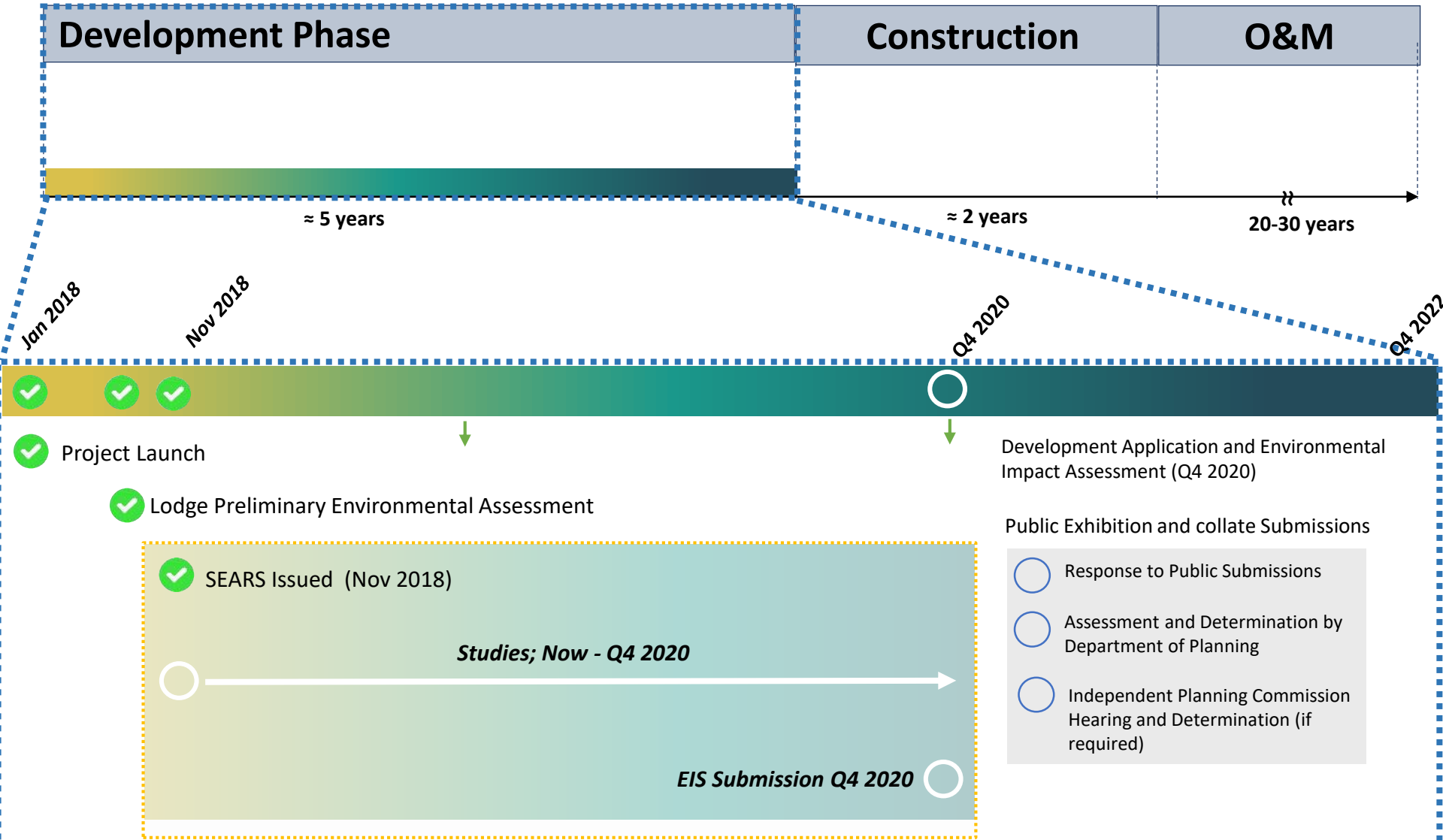


***Synergen Power
peaking station, SA
(396MW)***

3. Wind Farm Development: Life Cycle



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3. Wind Farm Development: Key Aspects



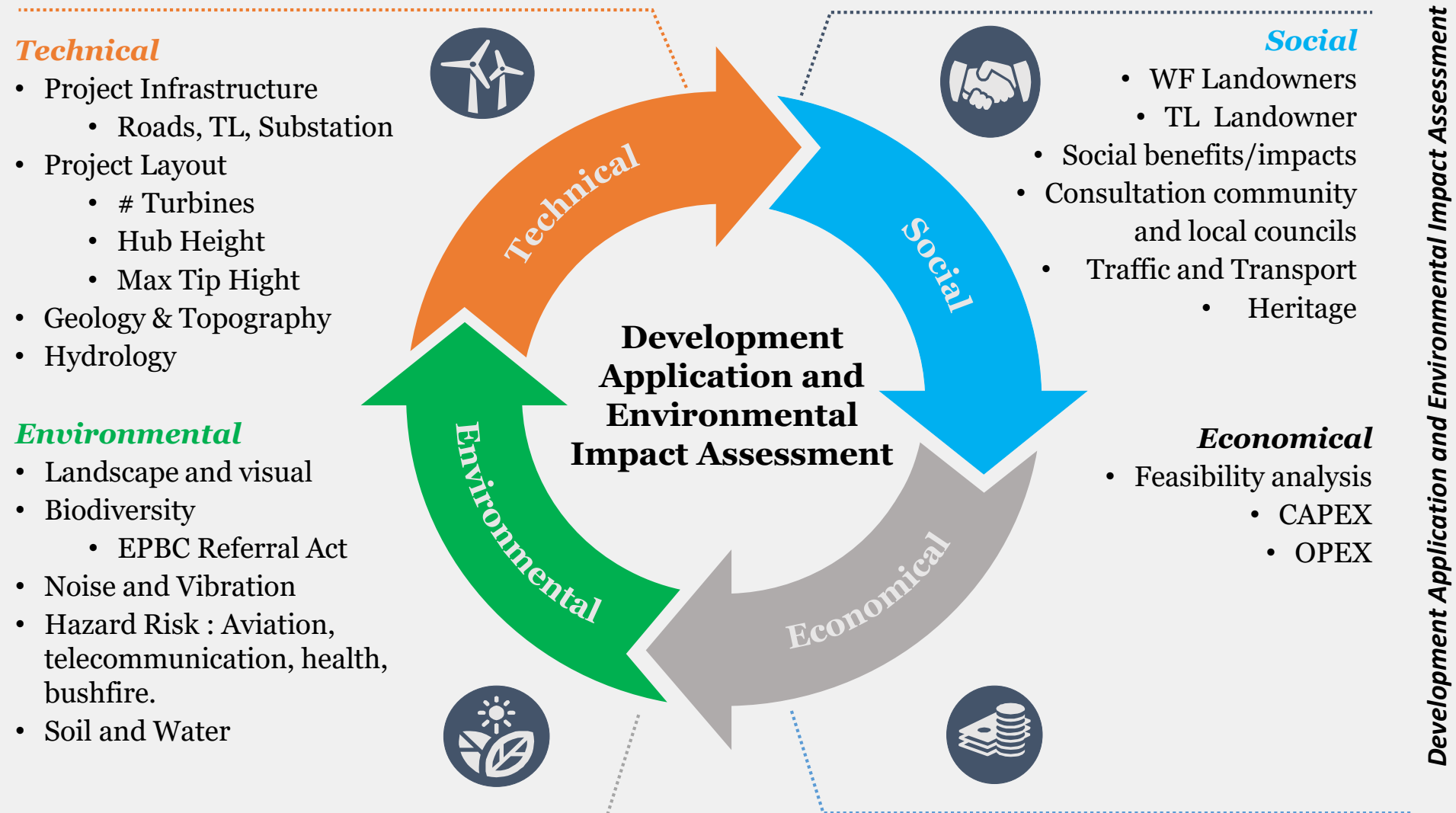
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SEARS Issued (Nov 2018)

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

Q4 2020



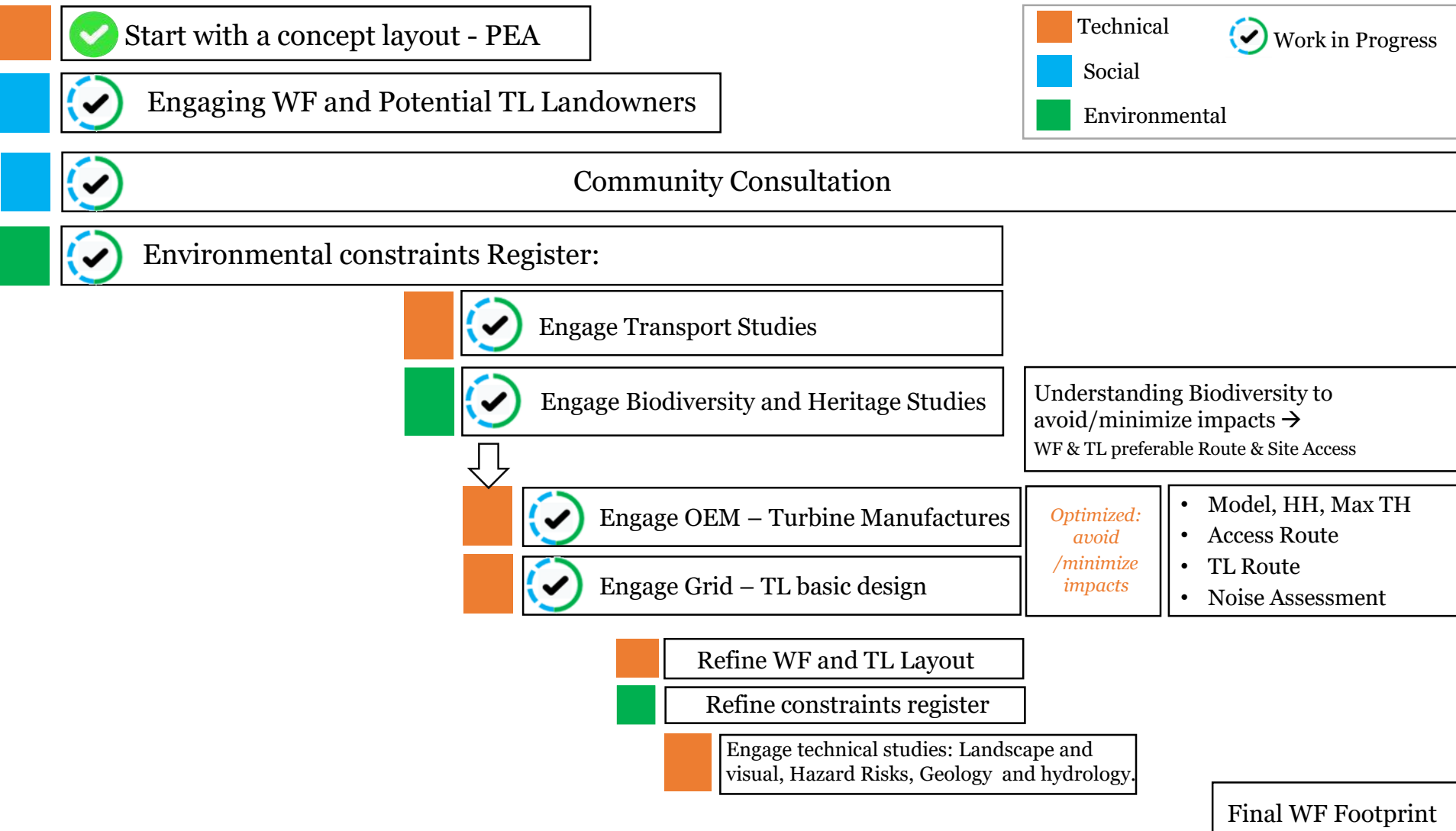
3. Wind Farm Development: *Timetable*



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✓ SEARS Issued (Nov 2018)

Q4 2020





3. Wind Farm Development: Advisors

	Scope	Experience
	EPBC Referral Application Lead Environmental and Social Impact Consultant	Proven record in wind farm project experience in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Environmental Impact Assessment.o Biodiversity specialists.o Botanical and vegetation assessment specialists.o Bird and bat strike collision risk modelling.o Accredited assessors under the BAM.
	Specialist flora and fauna studies	Leaders in Cultural Heritage Consulting
	Wind Data and Layout Engineering Consultants	Leaders in wind farm technical engineering, wind data management and assessments.
	Met Mast installation and maintenance	Leaders in Australia for designing, manufacturing, installing, commissioning and maintenance of wind data met masts.



4. Project Progress Update: EPBC Referral Process

Deciding if a proposed action needs to be referred

Is the proposed action likely to have a significant impact on a *matter of national environmental significance*?

NO

Approval is not required from the Minister.

The matters of national environmental significance are:

- World heritage properties
- National heritage places
- Wetlands of international importance
- Threatened species and ecological communities
- Migratory species
- Commonwealth marine areas
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Nuclear actions (including uranium mines), and
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coalmining development.

YES

1

Submit a referral to the Minister via the Department.

2

The Minister decides within **20 business** days on informed of decision whether approval is required under the EPBC Act

Control Action

Action is subject to the assessment and approval Process under the EPBC Act.

Not Control Action Particular Manner

Approval is not required if the action is taken in Accordance with the Manner specified.

Not Control Action

Approval is not required if the action is taken in accordance with the referral.

For a full diagram please refer to:

https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/d60cdd6a-8122-473a-bbd0-d483662cef3e/files/assessment-process_1.pdf



4. Project Progress Update: EPBC Referral Report

Biodiversity values are being assessed using a ***staged approach*** aiming to:

- To gain an ***early understanding of the site constraints***, and
- To inform the ***EPBC Act referral***

Stage 1

Desktop assessments, preliminary field surveys, vegetation mapping and threatened species assessment.

Stage 2

Detailed and targeted field surveys in accordance with the requirements of the SEARs and any supplementary SEARs covering the requirements of the DoEE (winter, spring and summer 2019 and summer and winter 2020).

The aim of the Stage 1

1 Identify vegetation communities present:

- **Plant Community Types (PCTs):** Delineation of vegetation zones based on condition (moderate/good or low) and ancillary code (high, medium, poor, derived grassland).
- Identification of any **Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)** present within the study area.

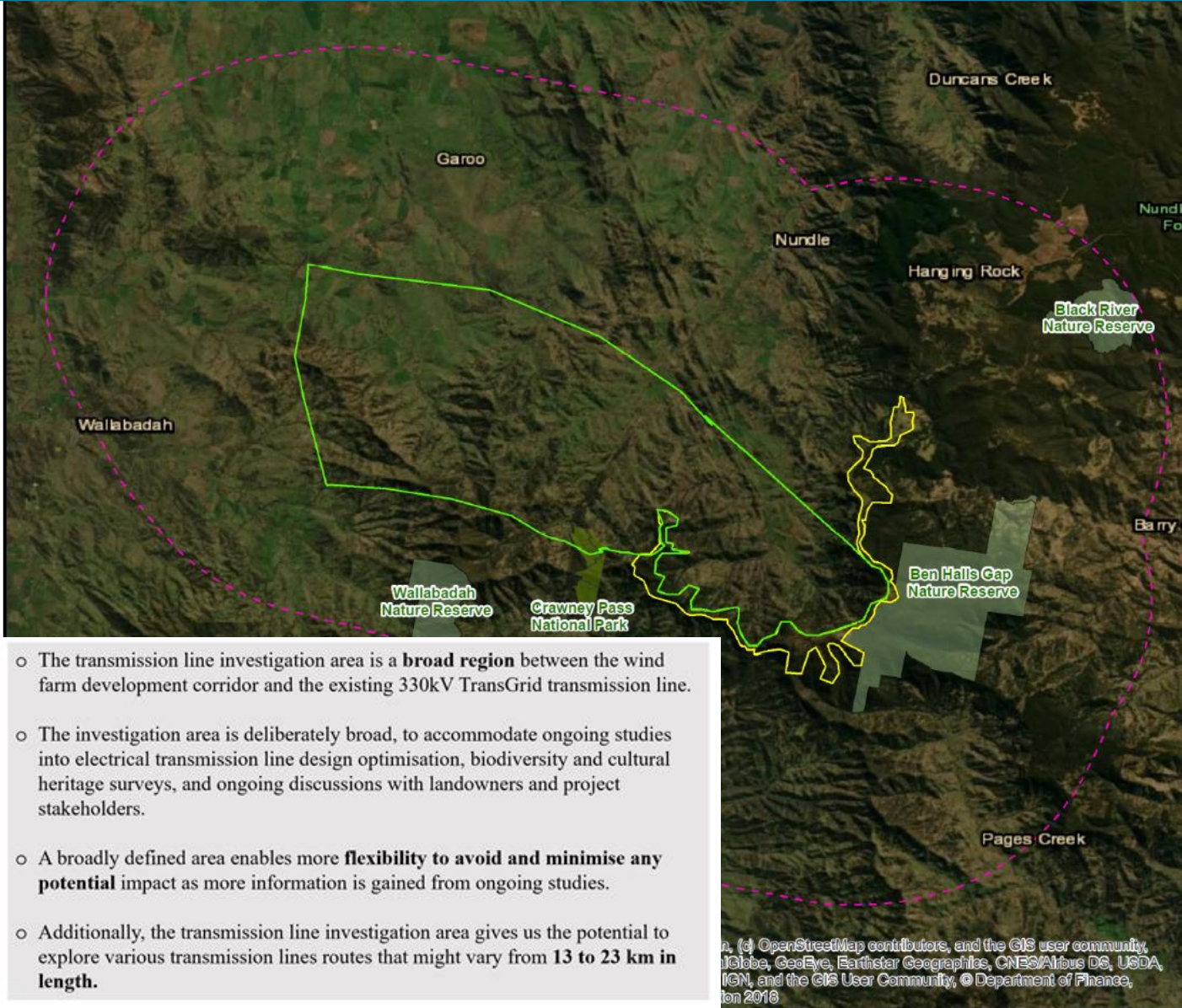
2 **Habitat assessment** to determine the suitability of habitat for threatened flora and fauna species credit species and key ecosystem credit species.

3 Complete a **likelihood of occurrence** assessment for listed threatened TECs and species under the EPBC Act, based on the findings of the vegetation mapping and habitat assessments.

4 Complete a **significant impact assessment** under the EPBC Act guidelines to identify the potential for significant adverse impacts to listed threatened TECs and species.



4. Project Progress Update: EPBC Referral Report



10km buffer
 Transmission line investigation area
 Wind farm development corridor

D1	12/09/2019	MJO	LH	MD
Issue	Date	By	Chkd	Appd

Kilometers
 0 2 4 6 8 10

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Client
Wind Energy Partners

Job Title
**Hills of Gold Energy Project
 Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment**

Drawing Title
Study areas

Scale at A4 1:252,814	Drawing Status Final
Coordinate System GCS GDA 1994	
Job No 270335-00	Drawing No 001

- The transmission line investigation area is a **broad region** between the wind farm development corridor and the existing 330kV TransGrid transmission line.
- The investigation area is deliberately broad, to accommodate ongoing studies into electrical transmission line design optimisation, biodiversity and cultural heritage surveys, and ongoing discussions with landowners and project stakeholders.
- A broadly defined area enables more **flexibility to avoid and minimise any potential impact** as more information is gained from ongoing studies.
- Additionally, the transmission line investigation area gives us the potential to explore various transmission lines routes that might vary from **13 to 23 km in length**.

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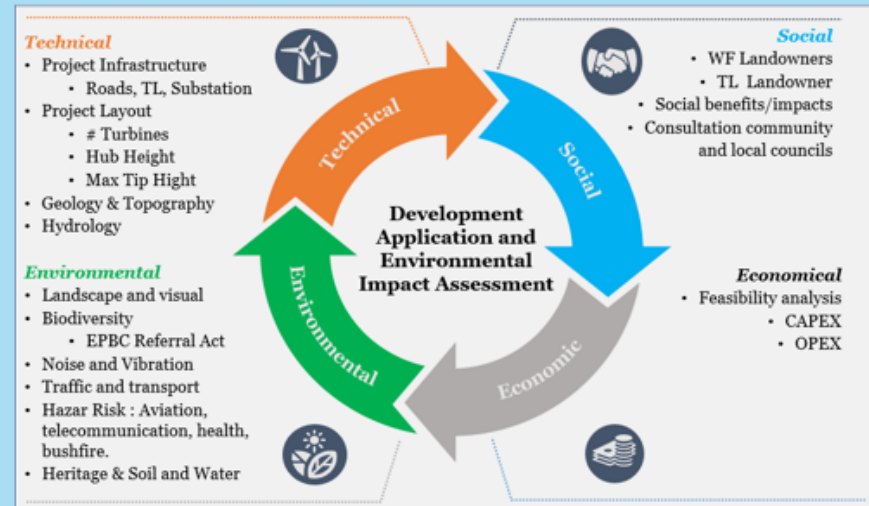


4. Project Progress Update: EPBC Referral Report

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

Box 1: Wind farm corridor and transmission line design status and optimisation process

Currently, Hills of Gold Wind Farm project is undergoing a design optimisation process. This optimisation process is a multidisciplinary exercise that is performed under the planning framework and State and Local government requirements and it considers technical, environmental, social, and economic variables.



The main goal of this exercise, it is to find the optimal project footprint for the wind farm corridor and the transmission line route that is compliant with project's planning framework, landowners' approval, and will avoids and /or minimises vegetation, flora and fauna impacts and is still feasible from technical, social and economic perspectives.

The broad transmission line investigation area was selected in order to provide flexibility to final route selection as studies and consultation progress.

Finally, the proposed surveys presented here will allow the identification and survey of listed threatened ecological communities and species that are likely to occur within the project area in order to be avoided. The survey results will play a pivotal role in the wind farm corridor and transmission line design optimisation process and in the decision-making process to avoid or minimise impacts.



4. Project Progress Update: Met Mast Installation

- 2 x masts installed & commissioned July 2019
- Purpose: better understand HOGWF wind resource
- Specialist contractors - ART Renewables
- Compliant with Australian and International Standards
- Data available online in real-time
- CASA/ASA, Tamworth council and local stakeholders notified.
- Aviation marker balls installed.

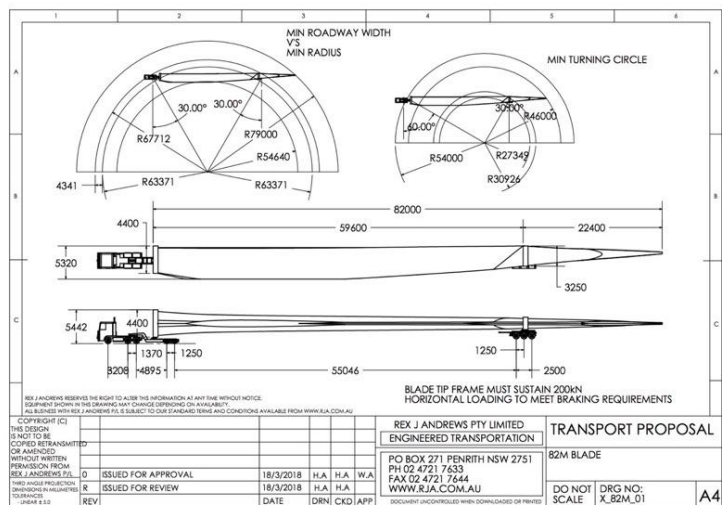




4. Project Progress Update: Transport Assessment

Transport Route Assessment

- Desktop assessment and field survey completed 18th June by specialist transport contractors
- Considers transport route options:
 - Port of Newcastle to Nundle
 - Nundle to Site Boundary options:
 - Morrisons Gap Road
 - Head of the Peel Road
- Major wind turbine generator components:
 - Blades, towers, hubs, nacelles and drivetrains both dimensions and weights considered.
- Assessment includes recommendations on vehicle/trailer configurations for components under investigation
- Preliminary information on roadworks and infrastructure modifications required
- Next steps to undertaken traffic and transport assessment expected to be completed by mid 2020



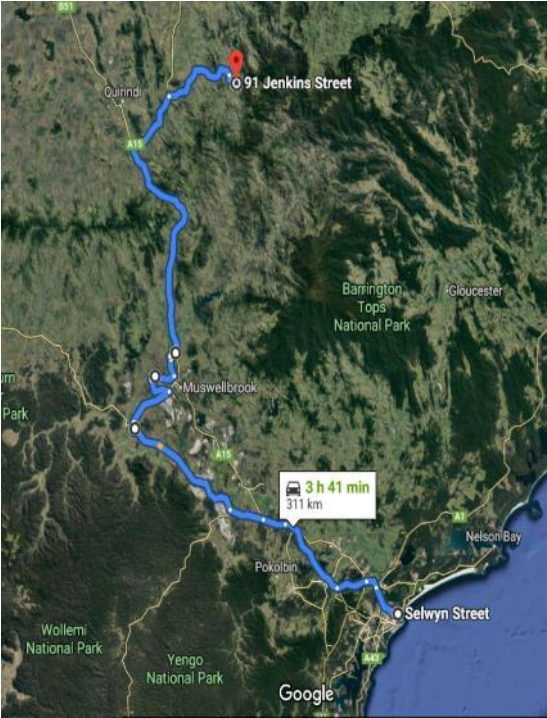


4. Project Progress Update: Transport Assessment

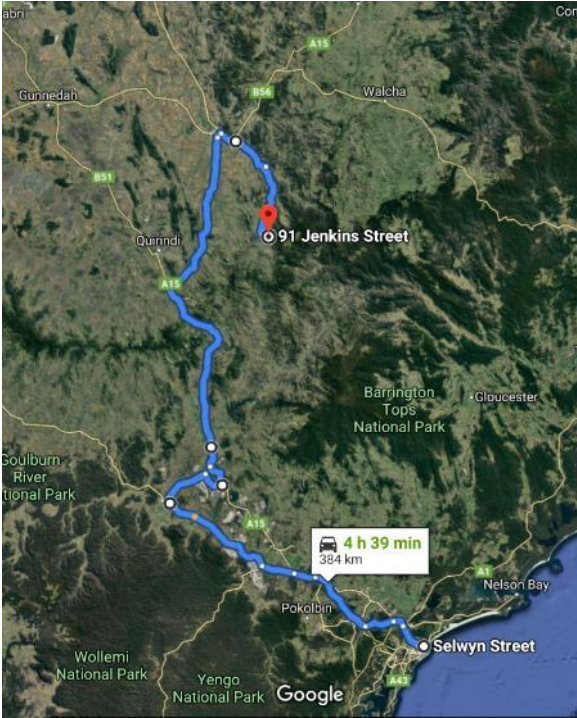
Main Routes : Newcastle port to Nundle

Route 1	Blades	311 km
Route 2	Towers	384 km
Route 3	Remaining components	269 km

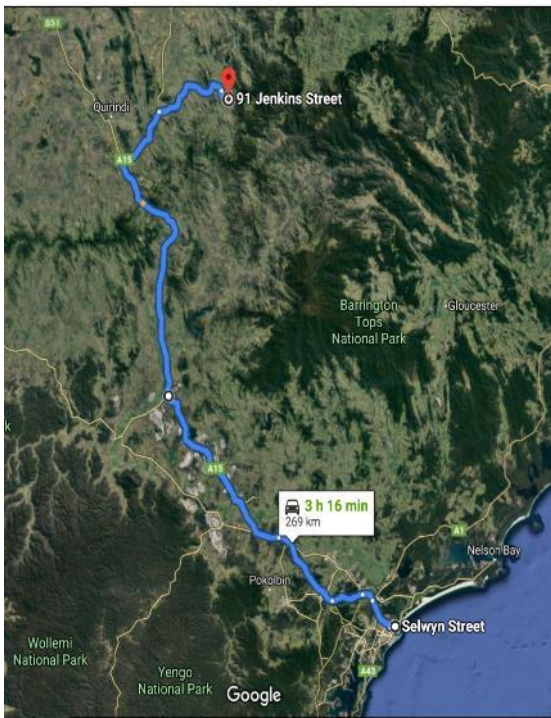
Route 1 - Blades



Route 2 - Towers



Route 3 – Remaining components





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4. Project Progress Update: Transport Case Study

Transport Case Study – Goldwind Cattle Hill Wind Farm, Bothwell, Tasmania



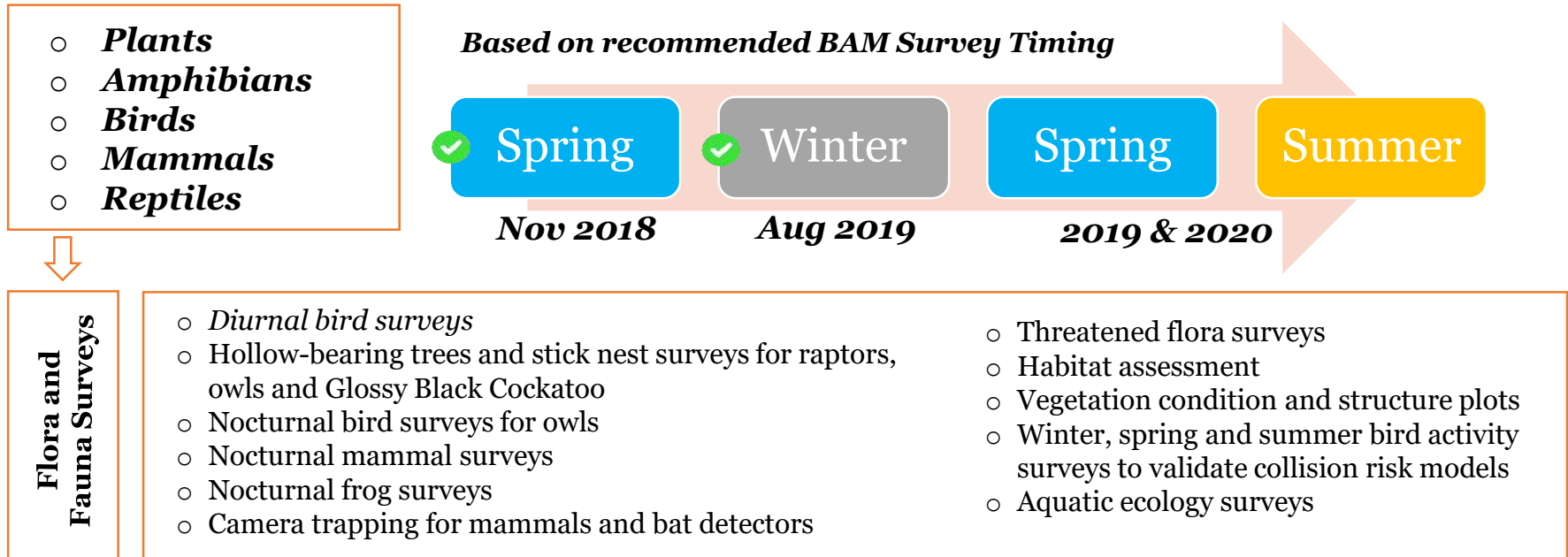
Sunny Rutherford
Goldwind



8. Biodiversity Survey Methodology Overview

1 Candidate Threatened Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity Study, EPBC Referral Act – List of Targeted flora and fauna species



2 Bird Collisions Risk Data Collection

- It will be prepared in accordance with **Avian Turbine Collision Risk Model** (Smales et al. 2013), property of Biosis.
- This collision risk assessment model has been large used by wind energy industry and regulators (Commonwealth of Australia).



8. Biodiversity Survey Methodology Overview

Recommended targeted surveys and timing

Threatened flora species

Scientific name	Common name	BAM survey timing	Proposed survey phase
Plants			
<i>Acacia atrox</i>	Myall Creek Wattle	Any time	Spring
<i>Asterolasia sp. 'Dungowan Creek'</i>	Dungowan Star Bush	Any time	Spring
<i>Chiloglottis platyptera</i>	Barrington Tops Ant Orchid	Sep - Oct	Spring
<i>Commersonia procumbens</i>		Aug - May	Spring
<i>Dicanthium setosum</i>	Bluegrass	Dec - May	Summer
<i>Digitaria porrecta</i>	Finger Panic Grass	Dec - Jan	Summer
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	Any time	Spring
<i>Homopholis belsonii</i>	Belson's Panic	Dec - Apr	Summer
<i>Homoranthus prolixus</i>	Granite Homoranthus	Any time	Spring
<i>Picris evae</i>	Hawkweed	Sep - Feb	Summer
<i>Polygala linariifolia</i>	Native Milkwort	Any time	Spring
<i>Pterostylis elegans</i>	Elegant Greenhood	Dec - May	Summer
<i>Tasmannia glaucifolia</i>	Fragrant Pepperbush	Any time	Spring
<i>Tasmannia purpurascens</i>	Broad-leaved Pepperbush	Any time	Spring
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax	Sep - Feb	Summer
<i>Tylophora linearis</i>		Sep - May	Summer

Threatened fauna species

Scientific name	Common name	BAM survey timing	Proposed survey phase
Amphibians			
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	Tusked Frog	Oct - Feb	Summer
<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog	Nov - Dec	Spring
<i>Litoria daviesae</i>	Davies Tree Frog	Sep - Jan	Spring
<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	Glandular Frog	Oct - Dec	Spring
<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	Stuttering Frog	Sep - Mar	Summer
Birds			
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Sep - Dec	Spring
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	Any time	Summer
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Oct - Jan	Spring
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black Cockatoo	Mar - Aug	Winter
<i>Hamirostra melanosternon</i>	Black-breasted Buzzard	Sep - Nov	Spring
<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	Aug - Oct	Winter
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	May - Aug	Winter
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	Sep - Jan	Spring
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	May - Aug	Winter
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	May - Aug	Winter
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	May - Aug	Winter

Survey Methodologies

Commonwealth of Australia - Survey Guidelines for Australia's for:

- o Threatened Bats
- o Threatened Birds
- o Threatened Reptiles
- o Threatened Frogs
- o Threatened Mammals
- o Threatened Fish
- o Threatened Orchids
- o EPBC Act referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala

- o Department of Environment and Climate Change (2009) *Threatened species survey and assessment guidelines: field survey methods for fauna*. NSW Government, Sydney.
- o Department of Environment and Conservation (2004) *Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment Guidelines for Developments and Activities – Working Draft*. NSW Government, Sydney.
- o Office of Environment and Heritage (2016) *NSW Guide to Surveying Threatened Plants*. NSW, Government, Sydney
- o Office of Environment and Heritage (2017) *Biodiversity Assessment Method*, NSW, Government, Sydney



8. Biodiversity Survey Methodology Overview

Recommended targeted surveys and timing

Threatened fauna species

Mammals				Mammals			
<i>Aepyprymnus rufescens</i>	Rufous Bettong	Any time	Spring to Summer	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	Nov - Mar	Summer (if required)
<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Eastern Pygmy Possum	Oct - Mar	Spring to Summer	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	Any time	Summer
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	Sep - Mar	Summer (if required)	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	Any time	Spring to Summer
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	Any time	Spring to Summer	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	Any time	Spring to Summer
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	Dec - Feb	Summer (if required)	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	Any time	Spring and Summer
<i>Macropus parma</i>	Parma Wallaby	Any time	Spring to Summer	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Any time	Winter and Spring
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bentwing-bat	Dec - Feb	Summer (if required)	<i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i>	Eastern Cave Bat	Nov - Jan	Summer (if required)
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	Nov - Feb	Summer (if required)	Reptiles			
				<i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i>	Pale-headed Snake	Nov - Dec	Summer
				<i>Uvidicolus sphyrurus</i>	Border Thick-tailed Gecko	Nov - Mar	Summer

Survey Methodologies

Commonwealth of Australia - Survey Guidelines for Australia's for:

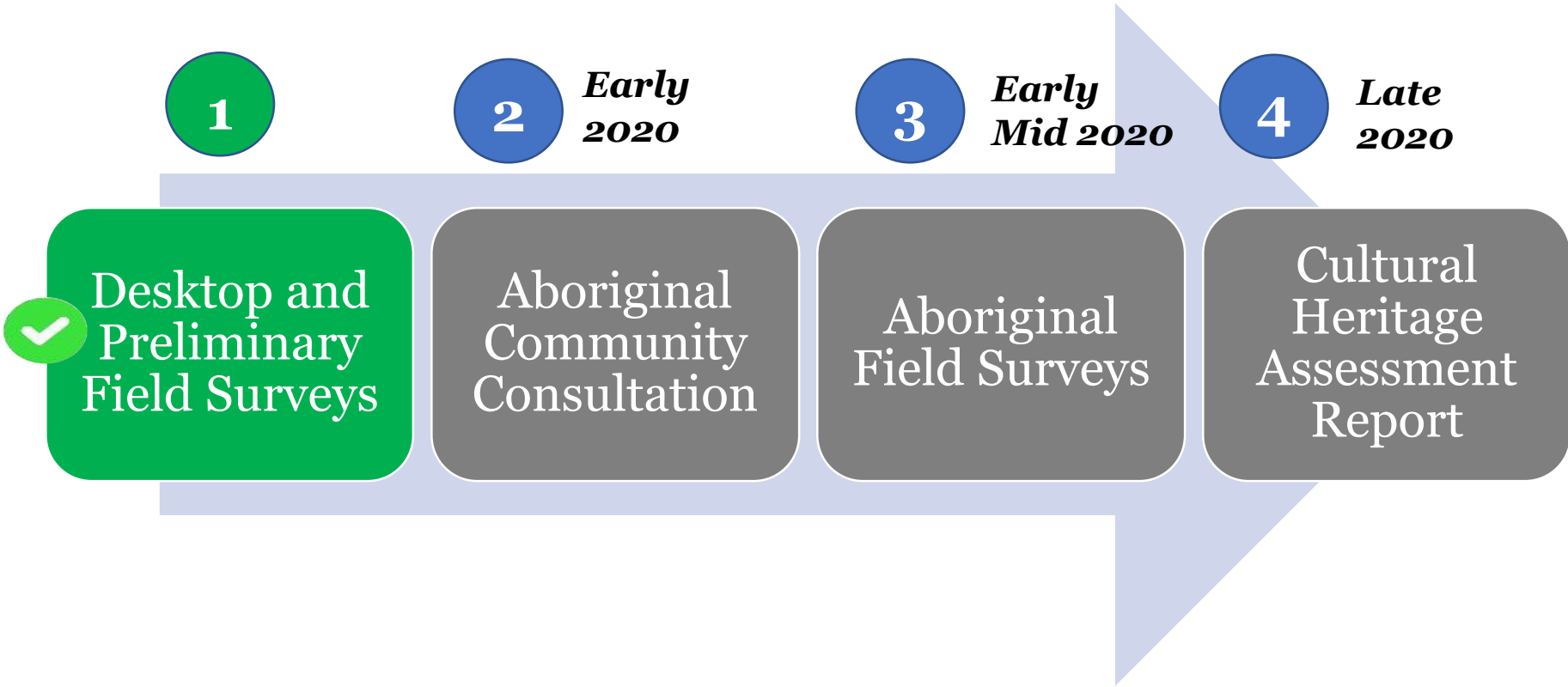
- Threatened Bats
- Threatened Birds
- Threatened Reptiles
- Threatened Frogs
- Threatened Mammals
- Threatened Fish
- Threatened Orchids
- EPBC Act referral guidelines for the vulnerable koala

- Department of Environment and Climate Change (2009) *Threatened species survey and assessment guidelines: field survey methods for fauna*. NSW Government, Sydney.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2004) *Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment Guidelines for Developments and Activities – Working Draft*. NSW Government, Sydney.
- Office of Environment and Heritage (2016) *NSW Guide to Surveying Threatened Plants*. NSW, Government, Sydney
- Office of Environment and Heritage (2017) *Biodiversity Assessment Method*, NSW, Government, Sydney



9. Heritage Survey Methodology Overview

Four Phases of assessment complying with relevant instruments and guidelines





9. Heritage Survey Methodology Overview

Assessment process

- 1** Determining if the activity will disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees
- 2** Database search: Aboriginal heritage information management system (AHIMS) and known information sources
Landscape assessment
- 3** Impact avoidance assessment
- 4** Desktop assessment and visual inspection
- 5** The Code of Practice specifies that if the initial assessment process identifies that Aboriginal objects will be or are likely to be harmed, then further investigation and impact assessment is required

The OEH process involves “taking reasonable and practical measures to determine whether your actions will harm an Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm” (OEH 2010:4).



9. Heritage Survey Methodology Overview

Compliance with instruments and guidelines

Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011).

Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH 2010).

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (OEH 2010)

Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW, 2010).

The Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS, 2013).

Engage Early: Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (DoE, 2016).

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Standards and Guidelines Kit (NPWS, 1997).

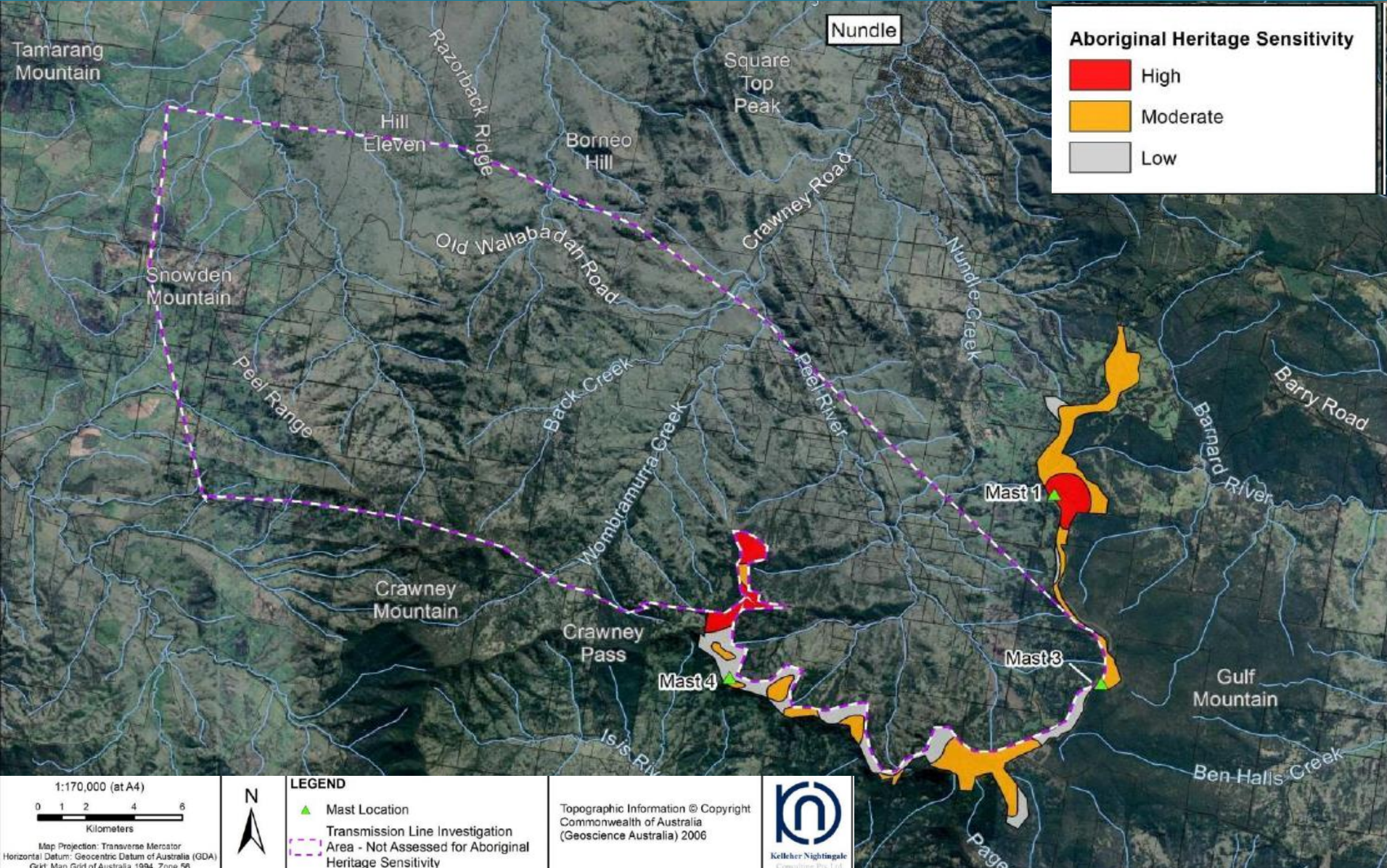
Ask First; A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values (Australian Heritage Commission, 2002).

The Burra Charter (AICOMOS 2013)



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9. Heritage Survey Methodology Results





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Questions and Discussion



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Questions to Wind Farm Proponent from



- If Morrisons Gap Road is the chosen access route to the proposed wind farm, what changes to the road do you envisage will be necessary, i.e. tree removal and/or lopping, easing of corners etc?
- The turbine hosts on the Malonga property have previously told some Morrisons Gap Road residents that you will be sealing the road. As dust will be a major problem during and after construction, is this your intention?

* * *

CCC Representative

~~_____~~ ~~_____~~

What amount of concrete is required for each turbine?
Where is the concrete production facility to be located?

How much water will be required to produce concrete?
Where will the water be sourced?

Would project developers consider compensating Nudge residents by providing rain water tanks and plumbing

Hills of Gold Preservation Inc 1800437

David Ross
Chairman
Hills of Gold Energy
Community Consultation Committee

17 September 2019

Dear David

Re: *Community Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes*

Hills of Gold Preservation Inc members recently passed a motion to write to you asking that the minutes include the names of contributors to the discussion and when asking questions. Community members are relying on their representatives to pass on their concerns and questions and would like to be able to discuss the minutes with representatives as needed. Having names included will assist the community greatly in this process.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Csanki
Secretary
Hills of Gold Preservation Inc

VPA Crudine Ridge

The draft Crudine Ridge VPA. Rather than offering dollars per turbine, this one offers \$1250 per MW of installed capacity

<file:///C:/Users/MSI-EX627/Downloads/Crudine%20Ridge%20Draft%20VPA.pdf>

VPA Liverpool Range

Liverpool Range VPA. Note the contribution (\$3000 per turbine, indexed)

5.4 Allocation of the Development Contributions The Managing Council shall allocate Development Contributions as follows: (a) It shall first allocate the Administration Allowance; (b) After subtracting the Administration Allowance from the relevant Development Contribution, it shall allocate 70% of the net balance to the Community Enhancement Fund and 30% to the Road Maintenance Fund or as otherwise agreed in writing between the Company and the Host Councils

5.5 Allocation of the Development Contributions between the Host Councils The Host Councils agree to allocate: (a) the Road Maintenance Fund for the purpose stated in the definition of Road Maintenance Fund, as agreed by the Host Councils; and (b) the Administration Allowance between the two Host Councils as agreed by the Host Councils. 5.6

Indexation of monetary Development Contributions

Where this Agreement provides that an amount is to be increased by CPI, then the amount will be increased in accordance the following formula:

$$A = B \times C/D$$

Where: A = the indexed amount at the time the payment is to be made.

B = the contribution amount or rate stated in clause 5.2 of this Agreement.

C = the CPI most recently published before the date of payment.

D = the CPI most recently published before 28 March 2020 (being the day two years after the date upon which the Development Consent was granted).

<file:///C:/Users/MSI-EX627/Downloads/Enclosure%20-%20Liverpool%20Range%20Wind%20Farm%20final%20draft%20VPA%20for%20Council%20endorsement.pdf>

Community Consultation Committee

Initial Questions from members of Hills of Gold Preservation Inc

1. Who are all the directors and shareholders of Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd?
2. When will the CCC be inspecting the project area and placement of turbines?
3. We request that the name Hills of Gold Energy be changed. "Hills of Gold" is a name adopted by locals decades ago to encourage tourism. Wind Energy Partners' use of the locally developed name amounts to a theft of identity, and its use for a project, that will potentially take away Nundle's magic and change its character forever, is offensive to a great number of people in our community. A location specific name is not acceptable to the community.
4. Now that there are 3 councils involved, how will the money be split up?
5. When will turbine numbers be finalised and WEP be transparent to the community?
6. How many turbines are needed to make the project viable?
7. Where will the site office, power station, battery storage facility and any other ancillary works be located? What area is typically needed for these works? Does it need to be flat land and if so, does WEP envisage needing to clear land for this purpose? How much?
8. Is the project running on time and what has been accomplished in this time?
9. What roads are planned for upgrade or to be built in order to provide access?
10. Will compensation for damage to roads from intense heavy vehicle use be taken from the same funding pool allocated for community compensation?
11. The proposal has been public for over a year now, why are there STILL adjoining landholders who have not been contacted for discussion about the project?
12. Division in the community... What are their proposals to bring the community together? So far there has been significant bullying, vandalism and defamation from particular people with vested interests. How do they plan to tackle this? Eg, better communication from WEP with emails, meetings, following guidelines, acknowledging community concerns, petition against the project etc?
13. Being an isolated area, landholders are always on high alert to trespassers, thieves, illegal hunters and poachers, particularly when there are more people around eg holidays. What measures can be put in place to protect local landholders from potential increased crime and heightened levels of anxiety?
14. Would the chair and committee be willing to be the first fully transparent CCC in the country?

15. Where and how many bird audio monitoring stations do you currently have in place? What are the terms of the study?
16. Should this go ahead, what guarantees are there that damages to local roads by the heavy equipment will be promptly rectified by the developer?
17. What guarantees are there that Nundle will handle any community funding and not Tamworth Council?
18. How can the compensation fund be set up to prioritise Nundle and Hanging Rock communities?
19. It has been found that wind coming over mountainous terrain can cause serious damage to wind turbines, reducing their commercial life to just 10 years. What would happen if the turbines became less effective or inoperable, thus reducing income to all stakeholders?
20. What studies will be done regarding shadow flicker and how would those results be reported back to landholders?
21. Will a Hydrology Report be done and by whom? Where will water be sourced for the Hanging Rock proposal?
22. What responsibilities does WEP have to correct misinformation circulating in the community once it becomes aware of it?
23. What are the main concerns and considerations for councils?
24. During the first meeting in February 2018 when WEP met with a few Nundle residents to advise us of the potential project, a representative of WEP told the group, (quote) *'if the majority of the community does not want this project, the project will not go ahead'*. Does WEP still stand by that?
25. What value does WEP place on locations with existing tourism based on scenic value?
26. Would Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd build the wind farm or would the project be sold to a wind farm developer?
27. In its March presentation Wind Energy Partners proposed the potential of 272 construction and 34 operational jobs and maintenance jobs after the construction phase. How do these jobs figures compare with similar wind farm projects?
28. If the owner of a wind farm goes bankrupt, the liability for decommissioning of wind turbines falls to the turbine host. If the turbine host declares bankruptcy what guarantee does the community have that the wind turbines will be removed at the end of the wind farm's life?
29. What will happen to the wind turbine foundations when the wind farm is decommissioned?

30. Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee minutes from July 2018 state that the project is behind schedule due to weather, and work will now be 24/7 on 12 hour shifts 6am-6pm. How does WEP envisage bad weather would impact this proposal and can you guarantee this won't happen in our community causing increased commuter traffic, truck movements, and night work site lighting?
31. What impact does WEP think this project will have on the relaxed lifestyle in the village and tourism?
32. If a landholder signs a Benefit Sharing Agreement does it mean they will be seen to accept any impacts and not be assessed by the Department for visual and noise impacts?
33. The Victorian Government recently introduced rules for all new wind turbine developments to have noise levels checked by an independent auditor who is approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) before and after construction. Do you support the NSW Government introducing similar improvements to wind turbine assessment and compliance?
34. What types of testing or modelling will be done to assess the "echo factor" in the valley and gullies around the area? What is it called and will individual properties be assessed if requested?
35. If a landholder's place of work is separate from where they live, will their place of work be assessed for noise ie sheds, yards?
36. In the Liverpool Range Wind Farm Determination the highest level of **construction noise** in one residence was assessed at up to 50dB and for 23 other residences up to 40-45dB. How is construction noise assessed compared to construction traffic noise and operational wind turbine noise?
37. How much power does a wind turbine itself need to operate?
38. What will happen with the soil that is removed from the ground to build the turbines?
39. How does the proponent envisage the profile of the mountain range will change due to excavation, movement of soil, roads and infrastructure?
40. Is the proponent willing to provide a 3D model to the community showing the locations of turbines on the landscape? If so, when would it be provided?
41. Where is all the water coming from to make all the concrete? How many mega litres will be requested as an allocation? Please provide an itemized list of how the water will be budgeted for use.
42. What are the processes required to investigate a water source for the project and what approvals are needed?
43. What width of land is required for the transmission lines? Does this need to be fully cleared land? What would this equate to in hectares?

44. How much area does a battery storage facility need? Does it need flat land and will excavation be carried out to achieve any flat land required? Same questions for sub station, workers' facilities and turbine pads.
45. What was WEP's obligation to contact and consult with landowners in the district and did WEP meet its obligations?
46. What powers the turbines during these long months of minimal wind? And how do they cope with sudden extremely strong gusts?
47. Bush fires are a major concern in the Hanging Rock. What measures would be put in place to protect landowners and ensure that emergency services could attend unhindered?
48. The ecosystems in the vicinity of the proposed turbines are rare, but also very diverse. Has the environmental impact assessment looked at each turbine site separately?
49. When would the first jobs become available? Would you please provide a timeline for employment?

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

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

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

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

Table 1. Threatened plants recorded in the Nundle area

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status	Comm. status	Records
<i>Eucalyptus oresbia</i>	Small-fruited Mountain Gum	V		31
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> subsp. <i>barbigerorum</i>	Blackbutt Candlebark	V	V	2
<i>Chiloglottis platyptera</i>	Barrington Tops Ant Orchid	V,P,2		1
<i>Tasmannia glaucifolia</i>	Fragrant Pepperbush	V	V	1
<i>Tasmannia purpurascens</i>	Broad-leaved Pepperbush	V		12

Table 2. Threatened fauna likely to occur in the Nundle region divided into likely habitat groups

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW status	Comm. status	Likely Habitat
<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog	E1,P	E	Low streams
<i>Litoria daviesae</i>	Davies' Tree Frog	V,P		High streams
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	V,P	C	River - Dam
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	V,P		Caves -mines
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	V,P,3		Low woodlands
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Corben's Long-eared Bat	V,P	V	Low woodlands
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V,P	V	Low woodlands
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E1,P,3	CE	Low woodlands
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	V,P,3		Low woodlands
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	V,P		Low woodlands
<i>Uvidicolus sphyrrurus</i>	Border Thick-tailed Gecko	V,P	V	Low woodlands
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E4A,P	CE	Low woodlands
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	V,P		Forests & woodlands
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	V,P,3		Forests & woodlands
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	V,P,3		Forests & woodlands
<i>Dapboenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	V,P		Forests & woodlands
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V,P	V	Forests & woodlands
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	V,P,2		High forests
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	V,P,3		High forests
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	V,P,3		High forests
<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	Olive Whistler	V,P		High forests
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	V,P		High forests
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	V,P		High forests
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V,P	E	High forests
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	P	V	High forests
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	V,P		High forests
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V,P		High forests
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V,P		High forests

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2. Neighbour Consultation and Agreements

2.2 Recommendations

1.1.1. Developers of wind energy projects should, where practical, proactively identify all potential neighbours at the commencement of the development activity and implement an effective, ongoing consultation program with all contactable neighbours throughout the project's development. While it may vary by project and geography, neighbours affected may include residents that live in a proximity range of 0.0 km to 5.0 km from potential turbine locations as well as residents in close proximity to other wind farm related infrastructure, such as power transmission or supply infrastructure. This indicative distance range for consultation may need to be greater in situations where, for instance, turbines are proposed to be erected on a ridge.

8. Site Selection

8.1 Observations

Also, we have found that locating turbines on the top of hills or ridges, while optimum for capturing the wind resource, can have greater impacts on visual amenity, may lead to specific noise and shadow flicker scenarios for residents in the valley beneath and may have other impacts on the community. Access roads for hill ridge wind farms can also be obtrusive and significantly constrain the available farming land in the area.

Conversely, there appear to be minimal issues raised to date about wind farms that are located on large land holdings, or on flat or slight to moderate undulating land and sites that are well away from neighbours.

8.2.1 Recommendations

State and local governments should consider assessing proposed wind energy projects on a wider range of criteria (including the suitability of a location from a community impact perspective and the degree of community support) and then prioritising projects for approval or progression accordingly.