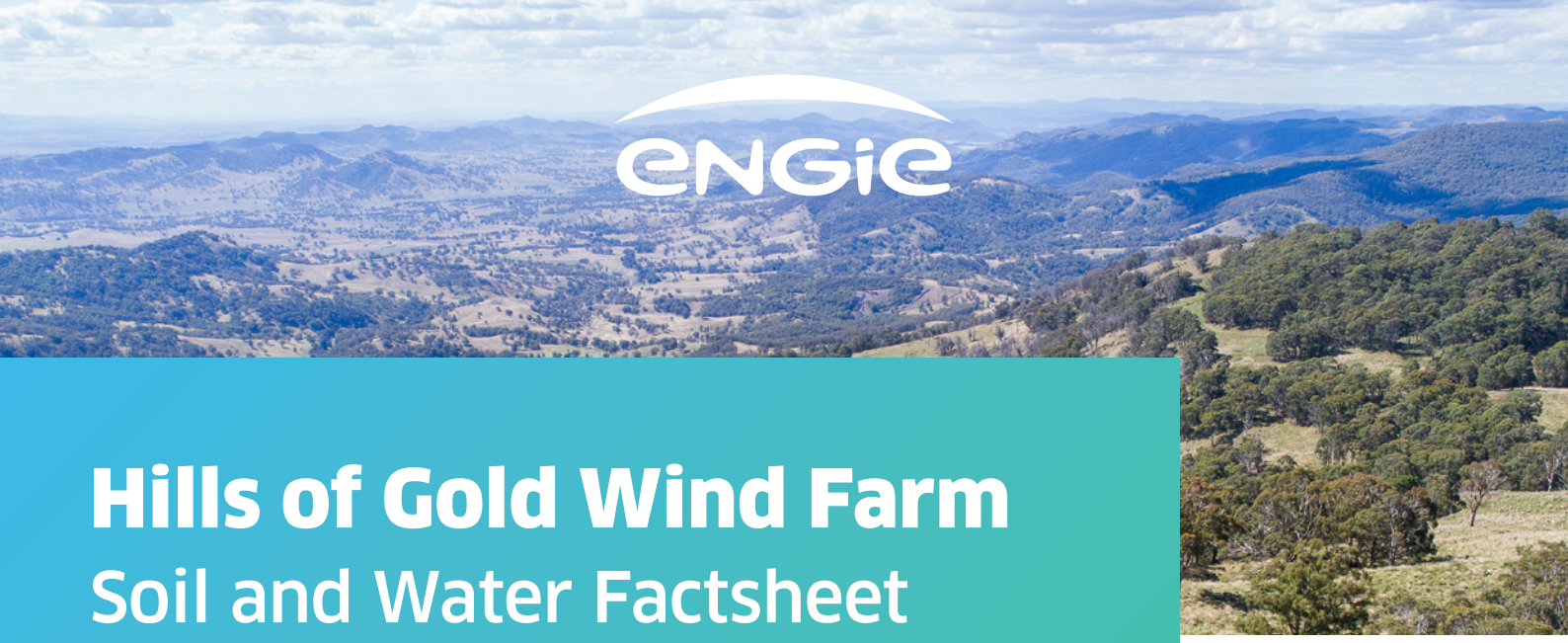

Hills of Gold Wind Farm
Soil and Water Factsheet

Soil Impacts

Since the lodgement of the original Environmental Impact Statement, consultants Coffey International were engaged to complete additional geotechnical investigations across the proposed wind farm site and transmission line corridor, while environmental consultants ERM undertook a new site soil assessment.

- Wind farms are commonly located on ridgelines and in terrain similar to the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm site near Nundle.
- The majority of the project is located across agricultural land on flatter parts of the ridgeline and not on the steep terrain.
- The location of this wind farm was chosen because of its high natural wind resources and access to existing electricity transmission infrastructure.
- A number of project changes have been made in order to avoid sensitive soil areas within the development footprint, including:
  - Removal of five turbines
  - Relocation of certain wind turbines
  - Relocation of construction areas and roads
  - A set of standard and specialist soil erosion techniques have been developed to manage soil erosion and potential land slide risk.

Weather conditions and suitable construction activities will be introduced in the Construction Management Plan and undertaken in accordance with Environmental Permit Licenses and Soil and Erosion Management Plan endorsed by an independent Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.

Water Impacts

Since the lodgement of the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we have engaged environmental specialists, ERM to undertake further investigations on the project's potential impact on the Peel Valley catchment, as there was significant community concern raised during the Public Submissions phase.

- An estimated 55ML of water will be needed during the two-year construction period.
- This water will be used to construct access tracks, concrete foundations, dust suppression and cleaning of the wind turbine components before erection.
- There are four options available for sourcing the water needed during construction:
  - Council water supply, with agreement from Council
  - Extraction from a nearby existing landowner bore, with agreement from landowner
  - Extraction from a new groundwater bore (once approval is sought)
  - Extraction from a surface water source (Peel River)
- The options will be reviewed by DPE, with the project contractor then determining the best source based on the approved options.
- Suitable mitigation measures have also been developed if and when a natural spring or waterway should be impacted during the construction period, including:
  - Drainage rock blankets to allow seepage
  - Culverts at key watercourse crossing points

It is important to note Water NSW's response to the EIS raised no concerns about impact to the catchment.

1800 845 067 | hillsofgold.au@engie.com
engie.com.au/hillsofgold