



# Hills of Gold Wind Farm Newsletter

SPRING 2022

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## November Community Information Sessions

Members of the team will be at our Community Hub on **Wednesday 9 November, Thursday 10 November and Friday 11 November, 9am - 4pm.**

If you can't make it or would prefer to meet outside these times, please reach out to us.





## Project Manager's message

Welcome to the spring edition of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2022, I want to start this edition of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm newsletter by thanking all those community members and stakeholders who have continued to put time into providing feedback into the project. While we understand the growing sense of wanting to know the outcome of the wind farm, it is important that the ENGIE and Someva teams continue to engage and respond to feedback.

As a direct response to stakeholder feedback, the project team has spent the last few months conducting a range of studies to determine changes required to the project, in order to reduce impacts. The most notable change to the project in this amendment is the proposed transport route for all oversize vehicles and some construction related traffic to go via Crawney Road, rather than Barry Road, avoiding the need for a bypass at Devils Elbow and retaining walls on Morrisons Gap Road. Also included is the removal of a turbine and minor relocation of a further 20 turbines to provide a larger buffer along Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve, a potential new location for the substation and battery storage system, and a new quarry option to reduce trucks travelling on local roads.

Given the changes included in this amendment, a formal public exhibition will be held from mid-November to mid-December, during which time the community can make submissions to the Department of Planning regarding the changes. Following the exhibition period, the project team will work on our responses.

Depending on the nature of the submissions, and if further technical work is required, we are still aiming to have a recommendation from the DPE in the first quarter of 2023, with the Independent Planning Commission expected to be held in mid-2023.

In other news, it's been great to have been able to support a number of local projects and events through our sponsorship program this year. In this edition of the newsletter, we're highlighting the new Foodbank and our support of the Nundle Swimming Club program – both fantastic community initiatives.

Thanks to all those who have taken the time to visit the team at the new Community Hub in Nundle. We hope you agree the facility provides a welcoming and informative space to learn more about the proposed wind farm. It is great to see Susi Rieger working there each Friday, with members of the ENGIE and Someva teams joining her when we're in town.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all community members and stakeholders a very happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to working with you further in 2023.

Regards,

**Meredith Anderson**  
Development Manager, ENGIE

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*We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future.  
We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands on which our sites are located and commit to building a brighter future together.*

# Project Amendment

Following feedback from Tamworth Regional Council, the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), National Parks and Wildlife, the community, and input from construction contractors, ENGIE is making a number of changes to the project. These changes are intended to provide more clarity and reduce overall impacts of the project during construction and with ongoing operation.

## Summary of the changes

**Transport route:** An alternative access route proposes delivery of wind turbine components and some general construction traffic to access the wind farm via Crawney Road, rather than the previously proposed Devils Elbow Bypass. While this will create traffic on Crawney Road, minimal impact with no change to the level of service is expected. The change avoids the need to build the Devils Elbow Bypass and retaining walls on Morrisons Gap Road and will reduce the volume of traffic using this route.

**Quarry:** Expansion of an existing quarry within the Nundle State Forest, is being considered. The quarry is closer to the project than previously assumed sources of material, creating the potential to reduce the number of trucks travelling on local roads, and in particular through Nundle.

**Turbine removal / relocation:** To create a larger buffer between the project and Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve, one turbine will be removed, and 20 turbines will be slightly relocated. This has created a 1.2km wildlife corridor and reduced the potential impact to birds and bats to 'low' following all proposed operational mitigations available to the project.

**Location of substation and battery storage:** If Crawney Road is to be used for construction and oversize vehicles, a potential new location closer to the new proposed route becomes an option. The optional location would be at least 3km from the Teamsters Rest campsite and has been assessed for impacts to those residents living along Crawney Road.

**Transmission line:** Optional use of tower structures for the transmission line to potentially reduce the height and number of structures required. Also increasing the size of the switching station and some additional access tracks to the transmission line.

**Public exhibition:** The amendment is expected to be on public exhibition from mid-November to mid-December and can be accessed at:

- ▶ Tamworth Council Chambers
- ▶ Nundle Library
- ▶ Upper Hunter Shire Council Office in Scone
- ▶ Liverpool Plains Shire Council Office in Quirindi
- ▶ Hills of Gold Wind Farm Community Hub (corner of Jenkins and Oakenville Streets, Nundle)
- ▶ <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/hills-gold-wind-farm>

For more details on the changes, check the Project Amendment Factsheet available at the Community Hub in Nundle, or on the project website at [engie.com.au/hillsofgold](http://engie.com.au/hillsofgold).

## Timeline



## What's next for the project?

Project Amendment submission	November 2022
Public exhibition of the Project Amendment and revised Impact Assessment	late 2022
Response to Submission Report	early 2023
DPE Assessment Report	early 2023
Independent Planning Commission	mid 2023



## Support for local Foodbank initiative

Foodbank sponsorship brings more than low-cost groceries to the local community

ENGIE's Community Sponsorship Program launched in June this year, saw seven groups receive funding towards projects that contribute to the local community. Four months on and program continues to bring benefits to the local community.

The community Foodbank has been operating from the Nundle Hall since August, helping many residents to put food on the table and relieve some of the financial pressure.

Member of The Pot of Gold Community Association and one of the organisers of the Foodbank pantry, Neroli McAulay said, "The Foodbank has been incredibly successful, and we are very grateful for the funding from ENGIE's Hills of Gold Community Sponsorship Program – it has really helped kick start the project."

"The funding from ENGIE meant that we could setup the Foodbank and pay for our first batch of groceries, shopping baskets, registration and insurance costs. We are now proudly self-funded and dedicated to supporting our community and helping take some pressure off the purse strings."

"It's been great to see more people coming through the doors, including families, older residents and people who live on their own. The Nundle Hall provides access for people with limited mobility and wheelchairs, which allows all visitors to access the pantry," said Ms McAulay.

The Foodbank pantry stocks a range of different items, from fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, milk, and pantry staples, through to toiletries, cleaning products and pet food.

"But it's not just the low-cost groceries that keep people coming back. The Foodbank is becoming a popular meeting place for locals to visit, have a yarn and catchup with friends," Ms McAulay said.

"What's most important to our organisation is that we can provide support to the local community, whether that be through the Foodbank pantry, providing a care pack to a local resident whose partner has passed away, or simply bringing people together."

"We've also partnered with our local Anglican Minister and Tamworth Family Support, to help families in need with towels, linen and support services."

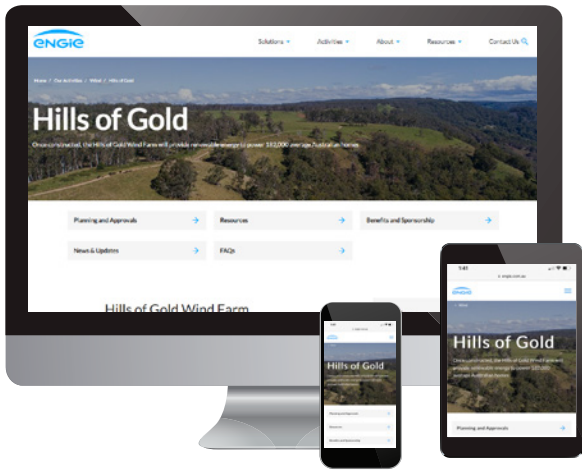
The Foodbank operates from the Nundle Hall on Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm and Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm, to help provide the service to a range of people and workers passing through town at different times of the day and week.

If you or someone you know needs support, we encourage you to drop-in to the Foodbank pantry. The Pot of Gold Community Association also welcomes donations from anyone who can offer their assistance.



# ENGIE launches its new website for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project

ENGIE has launched its new website for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project, located at [engie.com.au/hillsofgold](http://engie.com.au/hillsofgold). We are excited to share the new webpages with our online community, and continue to provide new opportunities for people to engage with the project.



The first thing you will notice when you visit the new website, is a new ENGIE-branded design and improved functionality to help you navigate and access relevant information.

The new webpages which sit within ENGIE's corporate website, are mobile-friendly, secure and accessible, while providing a central hub for project information, factsheets, frequently asked questions (FAQs), meeting minutes, employment opportunities, news and updates, feedback and contact details. More information is being added to the site and is continuously updated, so be sure to check in regularly.

The next iteration of the project website is already being worked on, with exciting new features and more opportunities to communicate and engage with the team. In the meantime, checkout the new site and stay tuned for more updates at: [engie.com.au/hillsofgold](http://engie.com.au/hillsofgold).

## Hills of Gold Wind Farm Community Information Sessions

Would you like to find out more about the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project?

A series of information sessions will be held at the Community Hub (old Nundle Post Office building) during November and December.

Drop in and chat to the team and get an update on the project:

91 Jenkins Street, Nundle  
From 9am - 4pm

### NOVEMBER:

Wednesday 9th  
Thursday 10th  
Friday 11th  
Tuesday 29th  
Wednesday 30th

### DECEMBER:

Tuesday 6th  
Wednesday 7th  
Tuesday 13th  
Wednesday 14th



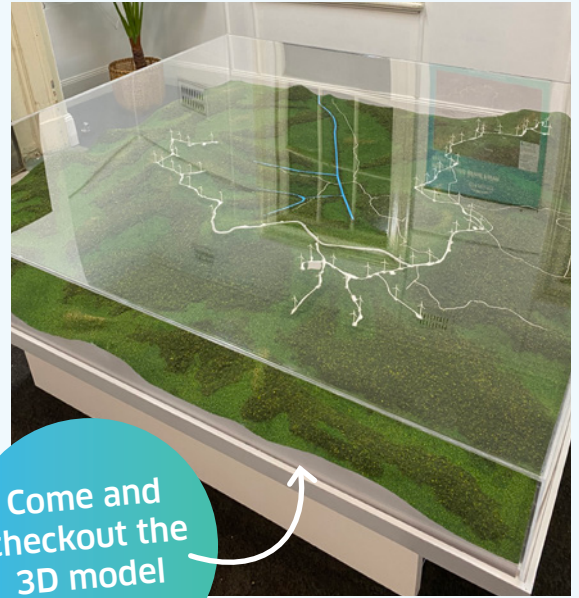
# Have you visited the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Community Hub yet?

The 'Community Hub' based at the old Nundle Post Office building on the corner of Oakenville and Jenkins Streets, opened its doors in August, complete with a 3D scale model of the wind farm project.

The Hub provides a convenient and accessible location for the team to meet with members of the community and provide a variety of information displays and project factsheets.

Members of the ENGIE team will be at the Hub from Wednesday 9 November to Friday 11 November and look forward to meeting with the local community to discuss project updates and answer any queries or concerns.

The Community Hub is also open weekly on Fridays from 9am to 3pm. If you can't make it into the Hub or would prefer to meet outside of these times, please reach out to us so that we can make an arrangement that works for you.



Come and checkout the 3D model



## Exclusive energy offer for local residents

Our retail arm, Simply Energy, will offer all residents and local businesses within 20km of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, a special energy plan guaranteed to be ten percent better than our best publicly available offer in market, with discounted electricity usage and supply charges.

The special energy offer will be available once the wind farm is constructed and starts operating.



# ENGIE supports the swimming community

Local swimmers are set to make a splash in Nundle this season, with Learn to Swim and Development Squad training programs underway



Pictured: Nundle Swimming Club squad members (L-R) Violet Gadd, Cordie Sutherland, Annie Gadd and Indi Schofield

ENGIE's Hills of Gold Wind Farm is a proud sponsor of the Nundle Swimming Club, awarding \$3,000 to the 2022-23 swimming programs as part of its June Community Sponsorship Program for 2022.

ENGIE Development Manager, Meredith Anderson said the investment which will help fund more swimming programs for young people in the region, reinforces ENGIE's commitment to supporting local community programs and initiatives.

"We're really proud to be supporting programs that not only promote safety in and around water and helps kids develop their swimming skills, but also makes a positive impact on their lives and inspires young swimmers to stay active, healthy and have fun in the water," Ms Anderson said.

Nundle Swimming Club President, Raegan Schofield said it was great to receive the funding from ENGIE and stressed the importance of swimming lessons for local children.

"Swimming lessons should be prioritised above many other activities due to its lifesaving consequences," Ms Schofield said.

"Our club's aim is to offer very affordable swimming lessons to every child in this town - we do not want any child disadvantaged."

"We work hard to fundraise and keep membership fees at a minimum, but it's very hard to do this because of state affiliated fees and insurances which are hefty, no matter where you live."

"That's why the funding boost from ENGIE mattered to us. It will support the swimming club volunteer committee to continue to offer lifesaving skills to every child in Nundle."

"The sponsorship provided by ENGIE allows us to strengthen our presence in this community as a strong and resilient club, backed by volunteer parents who value swimming as an essential skill in their children's development."

Ms Schofield said the swimming club are currently working with volunteer parents on more fundraising activities to help support the programs.

"The funding will go towards guaranteeing swimming lessons for our kids, equipping them with the skills and confidence they need to attend days at the beach, on a boat, around a pool or in a creek."

"Our kids will be set for life and able to enjoy a fully developed social life."

The club currently offers Learn to Swim and Development Squad training programs. Ms Schofield urged people to contact the Nundle Swimming Club for more details on 0428 635 352.

"It's a great atmosphere, the kids love it and it's an opportunity for families come together, feel connected to the community and support our young people to develop lifesaving skills."



## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### Community Information Sessions

November 9, 10 and 11  
November 29 and 30  
December 6 and 7  
December 13 and 14  
9am to 4pm

### First Nations Open Day

November 12

## Contact us

At ENGIE we recognise the value of open and transparent conversations with local community members. If you have any questions about the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, please reach out to us.

phone: **1800 845 067**  
email: **hillsofgold.au@engie.com**



[engie.com.au/hillsofgold](https://engie.com.au/hillsofgold)