Date: 1 November 2021
Venue: Walcha Council Chambers
Meeting Opened: 5.01pm
Minute Taker: Sara Wilson, KJA

Attendance:		**Apologies:**	
Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Independent Chair	Steve McCoy	Community Representative
Chris Page	Community Representative	Susan Armstead	Community Representative
Eric Noakes	Walcha Council Mayor	Caspar Ozinga	Community Representative
Robert Crouch	Uralla Council Councillor	Kate Jessep	Uralla Council General Manager
Barry Omundson	Walcha Council General Manager		
Doug Landfear	WWPL Project Director		
Evan Carless	WWPL Head of Development		

Agenda Items		**Who to Present**
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	MMH
2.	Declaration of Interest	All
3.	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	All
4.	Business Arising	All
5.	Correspondence	MMH
6.	Reports	DL
7.	General Business	All
8.	Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule	MMH

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action & Who
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Meeting opened at 5.01pm. Chair welcomed Barry Omundson, GM of Walcha Council and Evan Carless, Head of Development Australia/NZ for Vestas. **EC** introduced his role at Vestas and noted that Vestas employs over 500 staff in Australia and nearly 30,000 people worldwide, and is one of the largest wind energy manufacturers in the world. Apologies noted above	
2. Declarations of Interest	Margaret declared interest as Chair, appointed by Secretary, Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE), a paid position. All other declarations as previously given.	
3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes	EN moved RC seconded.	
4. Business Arising	• **Visit to Sapphire Wind Farm** – DL has arranged opportunity for wind farm tour for Thursday 3 February 2022. **DL**: Vestas supplied, constructed and operates the wind farm, owned by CWP and they have graciously offered a site tour. **EN**: It will be a new council then and will likely be 8 councillors plus CCC members. **DL**: Suggested CCC meeting be held on evening of Feb 2nd, with arranged bus to Sapphire the next day. Noted it would take around 2 hours to get there and back, with 3-4 hours at the site. **RC**: Should fit in with Uralla Council meeting schedule. • **Community Benefit Fund** – discussed in presentation. • **Labour Hire** – discussed in presentation. • **Use of recyclable materials in concrete foundations** – refer email response from DL on 15/9/21. **RC**: Appreciated email response from DL to previous questions.	

5. Correspondence	• 15/9/21 MMH email to CCC from DL regarding sustainable concrete foundations • 21/9/21 MMH email to CCC on Departmental attendance at public meetings • 26/10/21 MMH email to CCC from DL regarding Project Update and Decommissioning Plan • 29/10/21 Questions on notice – in presentation	
6. Reports	Presentation from DL Cover photo shows recently completed wind farm at Granville Harbour, Tasmania. **1. NSW Policy Setting** **DL**: NSW Government recently released draft declaration of the New England REZ for public exhibition, 2 weeks remaining for public comment. Walcha is in the middle southern part of the proposed REZ. **EN**: Is your project in the 8GW declared capacity for the REZ? **DL**: NSW Government targeting 8 GW for the REZ but received 34GW of Expressions of Interest. Based on available information there are approximately 4 GW of wind and solar projects currently in the planning system in the New England area. WWF represents 700 MW of that. WWF proposes to connect into the current transmission network and is not dependent on proposed new transmission lines. There will need to be additional transmission capacity to connect the generation capacity proposed for the REZ. **CP**: The Prime Minister recently announced a multi-billion dollar investment in renewables, is this going into Vestas? **DL**: No, this is not going to Vestas, nor to this project. **2. Development update** **DL**: A lot of work occurring, particularly the biodiversity studies which are complex and require multiple studies over every season and across multiple years. The level of survey detail is required by the NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Division. The current surveys from mid-October to mid-December will involve around 1,900 man-hours of survey effort, including vegetation surveys, bird and bat surveys, flora and fauna surveys and detailed survey plots. Many species have a specific seasonal survey window and Spring is a critical period. Impacts to biodiversity may require biodiversity offsets, which are expensive, so we are incentivized to minimize	

	impacts. We have also been in the field collecting photography as part of visual impact assessment and are currently finalising a number of other specialist assessment reports. Goal is to submit the EIS by March 2022, and the document will be placed on exhibition likely in April or May. **DL**: Also working with TransGrid to conduct thermal and voltage study for the proposed grid connection. **EN**: What if you can't get into that existing line? Would it delay the project by several years? **DL**: Grid capacity is a limiting factor for renewable energy development, and it is a race to connect into the existing grid network. We are proposing to connect into Line 85. There is also another line about 9-10 kms away that we could possibly connect into. **EN**: If WalchaEnergy builds a private transmission line, would you be part of it? **DL**: No. **EC**: If there are limits to the capacity we can connect into the line then we will make a commercial decision around the appropriate project capacity based on how much energy might be curtailed. **DL**: The wind mostly blows at night and in the morning in Walcha, meaning the plant generation would mainly be at night. This is the opposite of a solar generation profile. We think it would only be at times of high solar generation and high wind generation when there might be some curtailment of generation. **CP**: Any thought of including a battery? **DL**: We are including a battery in the development proposal, but whether it will be commercially viable will be determined later. **EN**: Did you include the battery in the REZ application? **DL**: We did not include it as part of the energy storage expression of interest to the REZ. **DL**: We have been doing a lot of consultation lately, including the project update in the Advocate, planning for the community days, calls to neighbours, etc. At the community open days we will have display boards and technical experts and hope a lot of people will drop in. **3. Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan** **DL**: Aurecon, a leading engineering consultancy was engaged to prepare a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan. Decommissioning involves de-energising, dismantling and removing infrastructure. There are two main methods, dismantling	

	and demolition. Both scenarios were costed, assuming that tower sections and all metal parts are recycled. Blades can be recycled via mechanical, thermal or cement kiln processes (now). WinterbourneWind will commit to not disposing of blades in the Walcha Landfill. Turbine foundations will be removed to 200mm below ground surface and then be covered with topsoil and re-vegetated. **EN**: suggested pulling down via explosives unlikely to be approved under OH&S rules. **DL**: It is possible and has been done, but obviously will have to be done safely. **EC**: Recently a faulty turbine was removed at Coopers Gap Wind Farm using controlled explosion to bring it down. **DL**: Internal access roads can be removed, or remain, depending on owner's preference. We estimate that decommissioning will occur over 24 months but could be done faster with a larger work force. We estimated the cost of decommissioning to be about $240,000 per turbine for the dismantling method or -$110,000 per turbine for the controlled demolition, meaning the cost of decommissioning would be more than covered by the salvage value of the equipment. **BO**: What about the concrete foundations? **DL**: We will demolish the concrete foundation down to 200mm below ground surface, and then cover with topsoil and re-vegetate. **DL**: We will commit to a decommissioning reserve fund in the conditions of consent and assess the remaining economic life of the wind farm every year starting in Year 15, and when there is less than 6 years of life remaining, establish a reserve fund. This will be documented as a commitment in the EIS. **RC**: Providing that there is a viable company that exists then. **EC**: A wind farm lifespan is usually 25 to 30 years, so we will review the economic life starting at year 15, and when less than 6 years remains, establish a decommissioning reserve fund. **BO**: In mining industry, companies put money into funds from day 1, not after 15 years. Not ideal for the owner, but preferable for the community. **RC**: UPC Solar Farm application for condition of DA to be fund set up from day 1 but this was knocked back by DPIE. **Chair:** noted previous derelict mine fund and legacy issue of mine in region. Government introduced hefty security deposits and legislative changes to ensure situation never repeats. **EN**: Noted particular mine had no obligation to pay for remediation and it is a mess.	

	DL: If we make a statement of commitment, if the project is approved it will be a legal condition. **BO**: Lawyers can work their way around that. Would prefer money up front. **EC**: We have gone above and beyond and offered to put money into fund 6 years before the end of life. Additional burden on consumers otherwise. **EN**: Expect questions from community on 10-11 December. **DL**: We have tried to respond to the community's requests, to provide a reasonable and considered response with this Plan. **EC**: We are being realistic and will do the assessment in 15 years, so we correctly understand the decommissioning costs and if we need to put a bond in place, we will do that. **CP**: Line in table in report where figures were in red, others in black. What is that? **DL**: One is a cost, the other is a negative cost, meaning a saving. **4. Community Benefit Scheme** **DL**: We have announced a new community benefit scheme. The scheme has two components, a Public Benefit Fund and a Neighbour Benefit Program. We will contribute $1 million upfront before construction, and then $750,000 per year, plus an additional $1,000 per megawatt for every MW over 600 MW. **EN**: Does the $1 million include the dollars paid to neighbours? **DL**: The intention was that the $1 million upfront payment would include money both for the Public Benefit Fund and the Neighbour Benefit Program, but we have not determined the split yet. **EN**: Why does this include neighbour payments which are part of the wind farm? **DL**: There are additional neighbour agreements that will be made with some neighbours based on potential impacts, in addition to the funds we are talking about. **EN**: Looks like the community gets $750,000, with $550,000 goes to community, while up to $200,000 goes to neighbours. Need to explain this to the community, as they think they are getting $750,000. **DL**: We commit that $550,000 per year will be paid into a public benefit fund and $200,000 per year will be paid into a separate fund which will provide benefit to neighbours. It is intended that any money not taken up by neighbours will be transferred into the public benefit fund.	

	EN: Expressed concern the $200,000 fund makes it look like Council is getting that money and deciding what happens to it. **DL**: Proposing $550,000 for the public benefit fund to support community initiatives in Walcha and Uralla LGAs, and $200,000 to provide benefit for neighbours with dwellings up to 5km from a turbine. If Council would prefer not to administer the neighbour benefit program, we can work out another way to do that. **CP**: Previous agreement had split in terms of profits. **DL**: I don't have a pie chart but the split will be as shown in the presentation. **EN**: Don't want it to look like the council is paying the community. **DL**: Acknowledged the effort that WalchaWind negotiated very hard to make sure as much money as possible went to the community and to ensure the project delivered value to the Walcha community. We believe this is a good result, it simplifies the message and the fund arrangements and we would like to discuss potential arrangements with Council. **5. Community Consultation Update** **DL**: Planning Community Open Days on December 10-11 to present the proposed project and results of the environmental impact assessment. Updated FAQs are on the website, as RC suggested. We have been talking to project neighbours over the past few weeks, most neighbours appear generally supportive of the project. **EN**: Acknowledged the efforts in improving community consultation. **DL**: The office in Walcha has re-opened at least a couple days per week and you will be seeing more of us in town over coming months. **6. How does Vestas contract with local workers?** **DL**: Have built around 50 wind farms around Australia. Typically for big projects Vestas will engage large civil and electrical contractors who then tend to subcontract to local businesses. From a contracting perspective, local is better. Local contractors know the area, they have existing accommodation. Equipment is standard agricultural equipment. **BO**: Noted that the subbies know the local roads and use short cuts, and damage local roads. Need to be contractual flow down to subbies. Otherwise all the good work done by funds for road upgrades will be lost.	

	DL: Preference is that certain roads don't get used and that we specify the routes which workers can use. **BO**: Experience is that those contractors will still find ways around. **EN**: Can Council have input into the contracts? Or can we provide feedback via submissions? **RC**: Understanding is that the UPC project is required to upgrade roads to a certain standard before they can be used. **EC**: These issues will be documented in the Transport Management Plan which is prepared prior to construction. **7. Questions on Notice** **EN**: Perception was that there would be $1-$1.5 million provided by the project. It was the 5% return on the wind farm, so perception now is that the benefit from the fund is much lower. **DL**: If we maintained the original 5% concept over the life of the project, the benefit may have been that amount, but with the associated risk of an equity holding. Moved away from this structure, based on community feedback, because it was difficult to implement and was not appropriate for a community fund. **EN**: But the total of the 5% adds up to $1 - $1.5 million, and people think it's reduced to $750,000. In reality the amount going to the community was only ever going to be around $750,000, but this will need to be explained to the community. **8. Comparison with other community benefit funds** **DL**: Comparing the benefit fund to other projects listed in the Australian Wind Alliance Report from 2019, the project benefit fund will be larger than other projects. **9. Carbon emissions** DL: Based on "Return on Energy" the wind farm will generate 30 to 50 times more energy than is required to construct it. Based on expected greenhouse gas savings, the project will represent about 3% of the NSW goal to reduce emissions 50% by 2030.	
7. General Business	**EN**: CCC originally started with several members, attendance levels have dropped. Is there a process to request additional members?	

	Chair: Explained DPIE process and expectation of members' attendance. Suggested further call for nominations could be undertaken in New Year when EIS is about to be lodged. **EN**: Noted committee runs for long time, opportunity should be offered to others as project is becoming more real to people. **Chair**: Discussed DPIE requirements and opportunities to promote vacancy, noting with Covid-19 and proximity to Christmas, people's attention may be otherwise diverted. General discussion on opportunities to increase membership at the community open days, project newsletter and advertising in local paper.	
8. Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule	Propose next meeting on Wednesday 2 February 2022. Chair to confirm with absent members. Following meeting will likely be in early April.	
Meeting Close	Chair thanked everyone for their efforts and wished everyone a merry Christmas.	

Next Meeting: 2 February 2022
Meeting closed at 6.45pm

Winterbourne Wind

Community Consultative Committee

Meeting #4

01 November 2021

Presented By:
Doug Landfear - Project Director

Topics

- NSW Policy Update
- Development Update
- Decommissioning Plan
- Community Benefit Scheme
- Community Consultation Update
- Business Arising – September Meeting
- Questions on Notice

NSW Policy Setting

- NSW Government recently finalised the draft declaration of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) for public exhibition.
- The declaration is the first step in formalising the REZ under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*, and sets out the intended network capacity (size), geographical area (location) and infrastructure that will make up the REZ.
- The draft declaration is currently on exhibition until Friday 12 November 2021.
- The REZ is a key feature of the state's goals to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030.
- The Winterbourne Wind Farm will be located in the southern portion of the REZ and will contribute significantly to the state's renewable energy goals.

Source: https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/Accessible-Indicative-location-of-New-England-REZ.pdf

Development Update

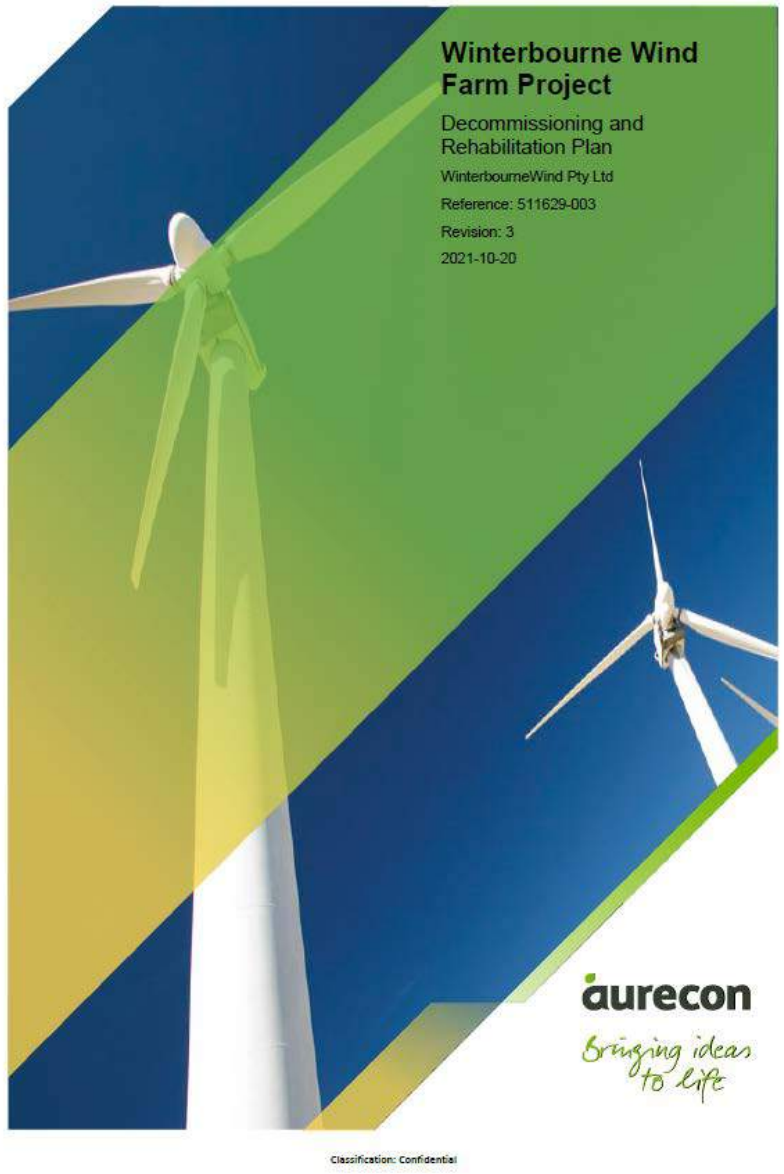
- **Permitting** – Ongoing preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will be submitted as part of the Development Application, including:
  - *Biodiversity* – Additional targeted flora and fauna species investigations – around 1,900 hours of survey effort
    - Survey 1 – October 2021 - Vegetation mapping (one week x 2 staff)
    - Survey 2 – October 2021 - Transport route vegetation mapping (one week x 2 staff)
    - Survey 3 – October 2021 - Habitat assessment and targeted fauna survey (one week x 2 staff)
    - Survey 4 – October 2021 - Targeted flora and fauna surveys, including walked transects and nocturnal surveys (2 weeks x 10 staff)
    - Survey 5 – November 2021 - Vegetation integrity plot surveys (one week x 2 staff)
    - Survey 6 – December 2021 - Targeted fauna surveys, including nocturnal surveys, call playbacks, riparian surveys (one week x 10 staff)
    - Survey 7 – December 2021 - Targeted flora surveys, including walked transects (one week x 8 staff)
  - *Visual* – Collection of photography to support visual impact assessment and preparation of photomontages from neighbouring homes and viewpoints
  - *Noise* – Update of predictive modelling to incorporate revised project layout and turbine technology
  - *Cultural Heritage* – Finalising Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR)
  - *General* – Preparation of draft EIS report sections

- **Grid Connection** – Initiation of grid modelling studies in cooperation with TransGrid, including Thermal & Voltage Assessment and System Strength Study

- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Neighbour consultation, project update flyer, planning for Community Open Day, announcement of Public Benefit Fund

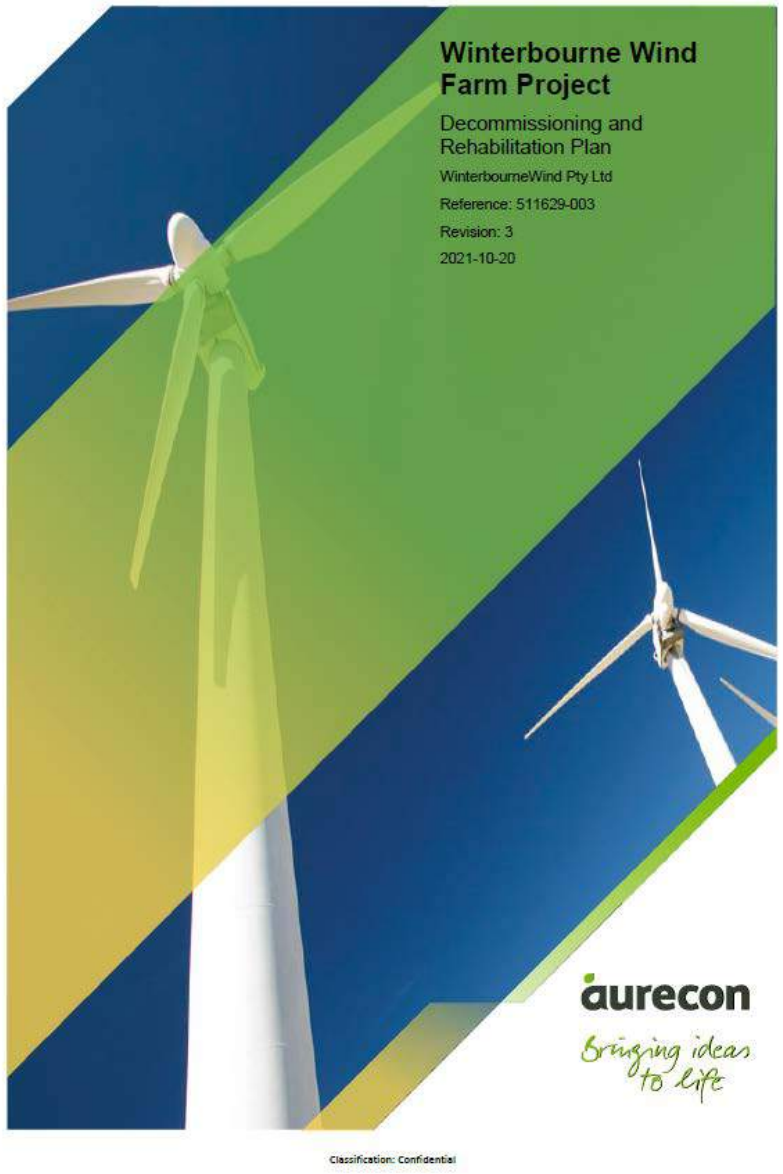
Decommissioning & Rehab Plan (DRP)

- Aurecon, a leading Australian engineering consultancy, was engaged to develop DRP to address questions and concerns around decommissioning.
- Report outlines decommissioning methodology and cost estimate.
  - Decommissioning will involve de-energisation, disconnection, dismantling, demolition and removal of all aboveground infrastructure and rehabilitation of access roads and hardstands (subject to landowner preferences).
  - Method of decommissioning will depend on safety considerations and on options for potential re-sale of the equipment:
    - *Dismantling* - If the equipment can be reused or refurbished, then decommissioning will be undertaken essentially as the reverse of construction, with blades, nacelle and tower sections removed carefully by crane and transported offsite to be delivered to another user, either within Australia or overseas.
    - *Demolition* - More likely, the equipment will no longer be suitable for reuse. In this case, the equipment can potentially be removed via controlled demolition and then cut up on the ground and transported offsite for recycling or disposal. This method will not require cranes or oversize vehicles and will thus be less disruptive to landowners and the community.
  - Turbine blades will be recycled via mechanical, thermal, chemical or cement kiln processes. The Walcha Landfill will not be used for disposal of turbine blades.
  - Concrete foundations will be removed to a depth of at least 200 mm below ground surface, but the bulk of the foundation will be left in-situ. The excavated area will be backfilled with compatible local material and then covered with 200 mm of topsoil.



DRP (continued)

- Internal access roads may become a valuable asset for host landowners. We will consult with host landowners, and access roads which are no longer needed for will be covered with 200 mm of topsoil and seeded with native vegetation.
- Duration of decommissioning is 24 months (shorter durations possible with larger workforce).
- Total cost of project decommissioning and rehabilitation estimated to be between $28.8 million ($242,000 per turbine) and -$13.1 million (-$111,000 per turbine), depending on the demolition method, and net of the return from salvage. The lower figure indicates that the value of the scrap metal recovered would more than offset the cost of decommissioning.
- To address concerns around provision of funding for decommissioning, we will commit to:
  - Undertake an annual assessment of the remaining life of the wind farm, starting in Year 15.
  - When it is determined that the remaining economic life is <6 years, we will update the DRP to determine expected decommissioning costs and appropriate decommissioning methods.
  - Based on the revised DRP and cost estimates, we will establish a decommissioning reserve fund or bond to cover the decommissioning and rehabilitation cost of the wind farm. This reserve will be established out of operating cashflows, with an appropriate percentage of cash or bond equivalent directed into this reserve over a period of several years, until the reserve is fully funded based on the most recent decommissioning cost estimate.
- This commitment will be documented in the EIS and will form part of the development consent, if the project is approved.



Community Benefit Scheme

- We announced our commitment to a Public Benefit Fund and Neighbour Benefit Program. We will contribute the following:
  - **$1 million** at commencement of project construction
  - **$750,000** per year during project operations (based on a project up to 600 MW)
  - Additional **$1000/MW** for every megawatt over 600 MW.
- These funds will return around **$34 million** to the local community over the expected project life (based on 700 MW, 30 years, 1.7% inflation).
- Public Benefit Fund will support community initiatives in Walcha and Uralla LGAs, including not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and facilities, local businesses, services and infrastructure, and joint funding programs.
- An Advisory Committee will be established for the Public Benefit Fund to manage solicitation of funding proposals and recommendations for payment, with representatives from Walcha Council, Uralla Council, WWPL, and the community.
- The Neighbour Benefit Program will provide fixed annual payments to eligible neighbours with dwellings up to 5 km from a turbine location.
- We will work with Walcha Council to determine how the schemes will be managed and governed, and eligibility criteria for the Neighbour Program.

Upfront Contribution

$1 million

Annual Contribution

$750,000

(up to 600 MW)

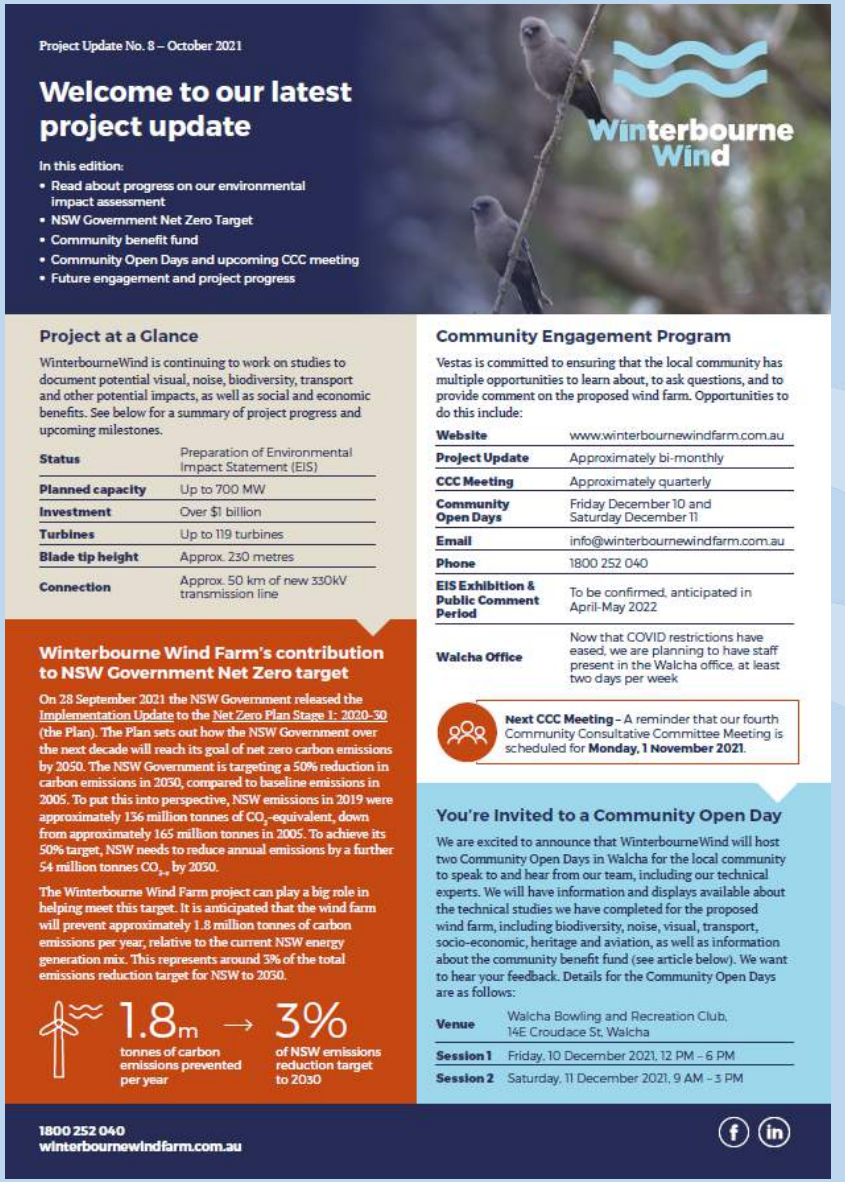
Potential Contribution

$1000/MW

(for every MW above 600 MW)

Community Consultation Update

- **Project Update No. 8** – Released on 27 October (distributed via Advocate, via post to ~100 landowners, and via e-newsletter)
- **Community Open Days** – Information event scheduled for Dec 10-11 at Walcha Bowling Club. We will have Vestas staff, technical experts, information displays, and interactive exhibits. Additional advertising will be done prior to event.
- **Project Website** – Refreshed content and added/expanded/organized FAQs, per suggestion from CCC.
- **Neighbour Consultation** – Extensive engagement with project neighbours, including over 225 engagements (phone, email, in-person) during Sept and Oct.
- **Walcha Office** – We expect to have staff present in the office at least two days per week through submission of the EIS (not including holiday period).



Project Update No. 8 – October 2021

Welcome to our latest project update

In this edition:
- Read about progress on our environmental impact assessment
- NSW Government Net Zero Target
- Community benefit fund
- Community Open Days and upcoming CCC meeting
- Future engagement and project progress

Winterbourne Wind

Project at a Glance

WinterbourneWind is continuing to work on studies to document potential visual, noise, biodiversity, transport and other potential impacts, as well as social and economic benefits. See below for a summary of project progress and upcoming milestones.

Status	Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Planned capacity	Up to 700 MW
Investment	Over $1 billion
Turbines	Up to 119 turbines
Blade tip height	Approx. 230 metres
Connection	Approx. 50 km of new 330kV transmission line

Winterbourne Wind Farm's contribution to NSW Government Net Zero target

On 28 September 2021 the NSW Government released the Implementation Update to the Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-30 (the Plan). The Plan sets out how the NSW Government over the next decade will reach its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The NSW Government is targeting a 50% reduction in carbon emissions in 2030, compared to baseline emissions in 2005. To put this into perspective, NSW emissions in 2019 were approximately 136 million tonnes of CO_2-equivalent, down from approximately 165 million tonnes in 2005. To achieve its 50% target, NSW needs to reduce annual emissions by a further 54 million tonnes CO_{2-e} by 2030.

The Winterbourne Wind Farm project can play a big role in helping meet this target. It is anticipated that the wind farm will prevent approximately 1.8 million tonnes of carbon emissions per year, relative to the current NSW energy generation mix. This represents around 3% of the total emissions reduction target for NSW to 2030.

1.8m tonnes of carbon emissions prevented per year → 3% of NSW emissions reduction target to 2030

Community Engagement Program

Vestas is committed to ensuring that the local community has multiple opportunities to learn about, to ask questions, and to provide comment on the proposed wind farm. Opportunities to do this include:

Website	www.winterbournewindfarm.com.au
Project Update	Approximately bi-monthly
CCC Meeting	Approximately quarterly
Community Open Days	Friday December 10 and Saturday December 11
Email	info@winterbournewindfarm.com.au
Phone	1800 252 040
EIS Exhibition & Public Comment Period	To be confirmed, anticipated in April-May 2022
Walcha Office	Now that COVID restrictions have eased, we are planning to have staff present in the Walcha office, at least two days per week

Next CCC Meeting – A reminder that our fourth Community Consultative Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 1 November 2021**.

You're Invited to a Community Open Day

We are excited to announce that WinterbourneWind will host two Community Open Days in Walcha for the local community to speak to and hear from our team, including our technical experts. We will have information and displays available about the technical studies we have completed for the proposed wind farm, including biodiversity, noise, visual, transport, socio-economic, heritage and aviation, as well as information about the community benefit fund (see article below). We want to hear your feedback. Details for the Community Open Days are as follows:

Venue	Walcha Bowling and Recreation Club, 14E Croudace St, Walcha
Session 1	Friday, 10 December 2021, 12 PM – 6 PM
Session 2	Saturday, 11 December 2021, 9 AM – 3 PM

1800 252 040
winterbournewindfarm.com.au

Business Arising – September Meeting

1) DL will investigate relationship between larger contractors and employment of local labour

The Winterbourne Wind Farm will be a major infrastructure project and as such Vestas will likely engage large, well-established contractors to undertake the key civil and electrical works packages.

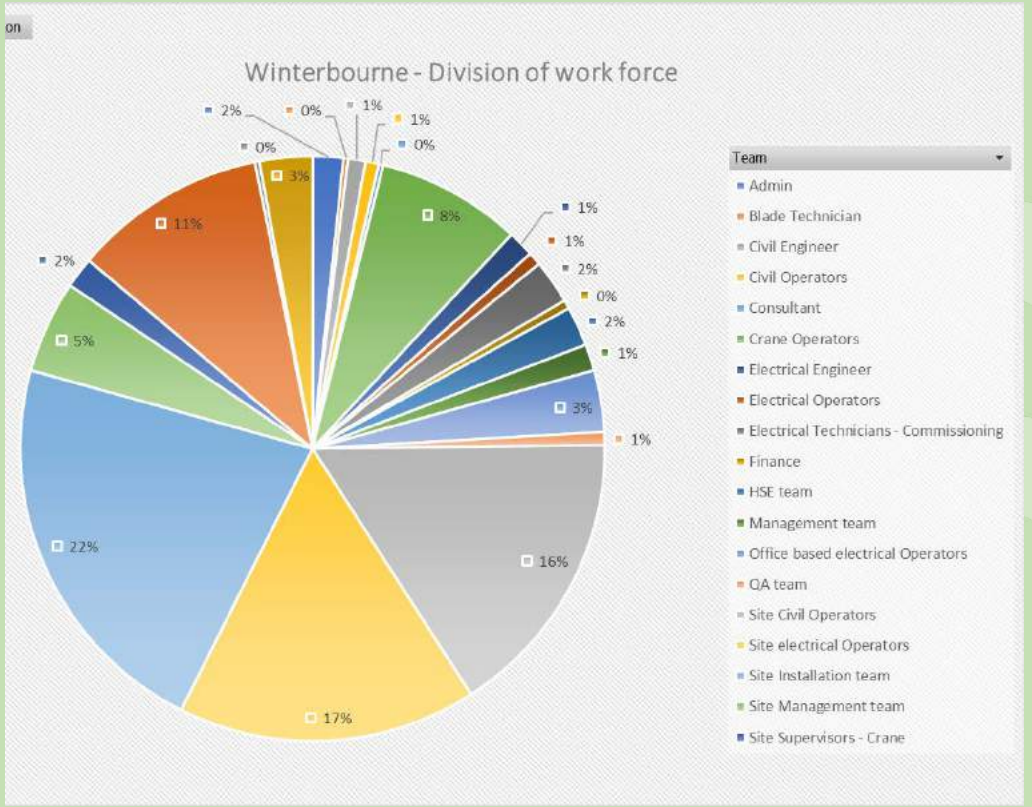
This contracting strategy has a key influence on the way the work is ultimately performed. Generally, large contractors do not have their own equipment fleets, because they simply cannot maintain enough of their own plant, machinery and people to self-perform the volume of projects they are engaged to deliver.

As a result, large electrical and civil contractors tend to "wet hire" local subcontractors – which means they hire the equipment plus the operators. From a contracting perspective, the more local the better, because this reduces plant and staff mobilization costs and the need to pay for staff accommodation and living away from home allowances (LAFHA). Consequently, there is a strong incentive for these large contractors to ensure the work is spread to local contractors wherever possible.

It should be noted that much of the civil work involves the use of agricultural equipment (tractors and trenchers), and in that context an all-rounder local agricultural worker who knows the local area is preferred over importing a worker less familiar with the area.

Vestas and its civil and electrical contractors will conduct contractor information nights well in advance of project construction to identify local and regional subcontractors, and to understand the availability of local staff and equipment.

Anyone who is interested in working on the project can let us know via our website at https://winterbournewindfarm.com.au/contact-us/. We are maintaining a database of interested contractors and suppliers for the project.



Questions on Notice

1) *Why has the neighbour benefit fund been added to the community fund? As the neighbour payments are a cost of doing business for wind farms as are host properties. Smoke & mirrors figure.*

The Neighbour Benefit Program is in addition to other payments which may be made to project neighbours in relation to potential impact. There is nothing "smoke & mirrors" about the fund.

2) *What is the exact figure to the Public benefit fund?*

The minimum contribution to the Public Benefit Fund will be $550,000 per annum, CPI adjusted, for a project up to 600 MW in size. For every megawatt over that size, we will increase the annual payment by $1000. So for a 700 MW project, as proposed, the annual payment would be $650,000 per annum. In addition, $200,000 per annum (CPI adjusted) will be paid to the Neighbour Benefit Program.

3) *Why is it such a low figure from the promises being made publicly for the last 2 years the $1-1.5 million?*

Vestas has never made any public commitments about the value of the public benefit fund. The previous community benefit concept revolved around an equity distribution from the project. As described previously, this benefit model proved to be difficult to quantify and implement. As such we have replaced it with the fixed benefit model described above.

4) *How can a statement be made " This will be one of the largest community benefit schemes of any wind farm in Australia" when there is no real community benefit figure? Nor is it correct on a per MW paid to other community funds.*

As above, a minimum contribution of $750,000 will be made to two separate programs, being $550,000 to the Public Benefit Fund and $200,000 to a Neighbour Benefit Program. Please refer to the Australian Wind Alliance report "*Building Strong Communities: Wind's Growing Role in Regional Australia" (Nov 2019) if you would like to see how the proposed benefit program compares to other community funds. The report is available here:* https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/vicwind/pages/2608/attachments/original/1625530588/AWA_Building_Stronger_Communities_Second_Edition_v04_SCREEN_%281%29.pdf?1625530588

Questions on Notice

5) *As per project Update No 8, 119 wind turbines have the potential to reduce carbon emissions by 1.8M tons per year. What is the carbon emissions figure to produce 119 wind turbines? What is the carbon emissions to run 119 wind towers per year?*

"Energy payback" is the time required for a wind farm to produce as much energy as it consumes over the full life cycle of the plant, considering manufacturing of components, transport, construction, operation and decommissioning.

For Vestas turbines, the typical "breakeven" point, where energy output exceeds energy required, is between 6 to 9 months, depending on the wind speed and other site-specific factors. This means that a typical wind farm becomes carbon neutral in less than one year of operation. By comparison, a coal-fired power station always consumes more energy than it generates, and never achieves an energy payback.

Another way of looking at this is to consider "Return on Energy". A single Vestas wind turbine generates around 30 to 50 times more energy than it consumes during its entire lifecycle. This level of efficiency creates enormous potential for reducing carbon emissions relative to existing fossil fuel energy systems.


Thank You
Winterbourne
Wind