

Rye Park Wind Farm

Project Update No 6 | August 2012

Project Update

It has been a busy and productive few months for the development of the wind farm. We have been incorporating findings from our specialist studies, including consultation feedback from the community, into the design of the wind farm. We anticipate a final draft layout of the wind farm will be prepared and released in the coming months. The environmental assessment document is currently being prepared and is expected to be lodged with government for public exhibition later in the year.

Archaeological & Heritage Field Survey

Following consultation with 5 locally registered Aboriginal groups, our archaeological and heritage consultant completed a 9 day field survey during July and was assisted by the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation.

Preliminary results show the proposed impact areas to be of low archaeological and heritage significance, primarily due to their location on very rocky ridgelines, situated away from streams and rivers. A very low density of stone artefacts was found to be present on the site during the field survey (photo shown below).

Several milky quartz outcrops were recorded on the site that may have been historically exploited as sources of raw material. It has been recommended that impacts to these outcrop areas be avoided where possible during construction (photo shown below).



Community Consultation Committee

The Community Consultation Committee (CCC) established for the project met again in Yass on 2 August. A few new members, both involved and uninvolved landowners, attended the meeting. The latest project information was presented and points discussed at the meeting included;

- Release of the traffic and transport plan for consultation
- Update and feedback on the potential for a community fund
- Feedback from the recent public open day
- Details for connecting the wind farm to the electricity grid

Project details can be found at www.epuron.com.au/project/rye-park/



Public Open Day was a Success

Thank you to all those people who attended the wind farm public open day in Rye Park on 26 July.

The open day was a great success with 51 people attending and viewing the project information on display, which included;

- Wind farm layout with 131 turbine locations.
- Seven photomontages from selected public viewpoints.
- Traffic and transport route and access map.
- General wind farm and industry information.
- Other project and corporate information.

The majority of people who attended the open day (78%) were supportive of the project and the potential benefits available to the town of Rye Park and the local region. The opportunity to capture local jobs and investment expenditure was considered a key benefit of the project.

Members of the development team were pleased to discuss the project and answer your questions. The feedback received on the day will be considered in the design of the project wherever possible and we expect to release a final layout in the coming months.

Please send us your feedback

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Community Fund

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed their feedback to us regarding the potential to establish a community fund for the project. Over the past few months we have been consulting and seeking feedback on how best to establish a community fund and to identify what type of local support is required from the project.

The following is a summary of the key feedback we received on these two points and will be considered during the preparation of the project's environmental assessment that will be publicly exhibited later in the year.

1. Feedback received.....How best to establish a community fund

- Local councils prefer that if a community fund is established it is managed by them.
- Local community wants to have a say in where and how any community funds are managed and spent.
- Draft NSW Wind Guidelines say community infrastructure contributions may be required under Part 4, Division 6 of the EP&A Act 1979, or through a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) with a planning authority, including council.
- Community funds for some other projects have been considered through a mechanism that combines involvement from representatives of both the local community and council.

2. Feedback received.....Identify what type of local support is required from the project

- Upgrade and improve local roads near the project.
- Improvements to the township of Rye Park and better local amenities.
- Better mobile phone reception and internet services in the town.
- Chance to reopen some businesses and local services in Rye Park.
- Community must "go deeper" and provide attraction to keep families and younger people in the area through long term benefits and job creation



Traffic and Transport Report

The traffic and transport report for the project has been released for consultation. A copy of the report can be found on our website and the report assesses the;

- Traffic and transport issues relevant to the construction & operation of the wind farm.
- Implications of the project and potential impacts.
- Proposed mitigation measures to minimise related impacts.
- Maximum traffic impacts predicted during construction from heavy and oversized vehicles delivering equipment and material.
- Public road network proximate to the project.

Key issues addressed by the report include;

- Suitability of the existing roads for the type of heavy and oversized vehicles that will need to access the site (road type, width, radius of bends etc).
- Structural capacity of existing roads and structures, such as bridges, to handle the heavy and oversized vehicles for the delivery of equipment and materials.
- Disturbance to the local community as a result of increased vehicle movements.
- Management of traffic on the site including traffic safety, minimising ground disturbance, erosion and dust.

