

# **Proposed Liverpool Range Wind Farm**

## **Warrumbungle & Upper Hunter Shire Councils**

### **Proposed Mechanism for Managing Annual Financial Contributions from Epuron**

28 July 2015

# Items

1. Council's legislative responsibilities
2. Funding components
3. Perspective of the two Councils

# Brief of the Two Councils

- ▶ As per Local Government Act, Councils responsible for leadership that adopts principles of ESD & social justice in providing equitable services & facilities for the community. Includes planning & development matters.
- ▶ EP&A Act also imposes obligations to assist in project assessment.
- ▶ S 355 allows Councils to delegate certain functions but accountability and probity requirements remain same.

# Two Elements Requiring Proponent Funding

## 1. Infrastructure Upgrade Component:

- ▶ Upfront funding for infrastructure where Epuron has liability or makes direct demand on infrastructure, eg roads
- ▶ Akin to S 94 matters
- ▶ Councils have provided scope of work for road upgrade study to determine baseline & ensure upgrades required are implemented

# Two Elements Requiring Proponent Funding (Contin)

## 2. Contributions for Public Benefit Aspects:

- ▶ Funding for works/activities that add a broader public benefit & may include intangibles
- ▶ Includes a social responsibility element
- ▶ Annual contribution + CPI

# Suggested Allocation of Public Project Funds

## 1. *Community Enhancement Fund*

recreational & sports facilities, community facilities, drainage structures, environmental protection, streetscape & other public domain improvements

## 2. *Road Maintenance Fund*

allocated to project related roads

# View of the Two Councils

- Ensure environmental, social & economic benefits of Proposal outweigh costs & deliver outcomes as per Community Strategic Plans.
- Councils hold the funds. Have a S 355 Committee make recommendations to Council as to funding allocations. Benefits of this approach:
  - optimises accountability & transparency of financial management
  - recognises the broad, community wide influence of project
- S 355 Committee option supported by DP&E