



Trustpower
Rye Park Wind Farm EIS
Community and Stakeholder Engagement

May 2016

Table of contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Project context and overview	1
1.2	Purpose of this report.....	1
2.	Consultation Objectives	2
2.1	Guidelines for best practice	2
2.2	Community engagement spectrum.....	6
2.3	Summary of previous consultation by Epuron	6
2.4	Communication objectives and approach.....	8
2.5	Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan.....	9
3.	Overview of Community Engagement Activities	12
3.1	Consultation approach.....	13
3.2	Communication Collateral.....	13
3.3	Mail out	13
3.4	Individual Phone Calls	13
3.5	Face to face meetings.....	14
3.6	Community Information Stands	14
3.7	Community Information Day	14
3.8	Media releases.....	14
3.9	Neighbouring Benefit Scheme	15
3.10	Rye Park Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	15
3.11	Presentation to LGA and other key stakeholders	15
4.	Issue Analysis and Response	15
4.1	Key Issues raised.....	15
4.2	Additional works.....	16
4.3	Amendments to layout	16
5.	Conclusions.....	17

Table index

Table 1 : Stakeholder and Engagement phases.....	1
Table 2: Summary of Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan.....	10
Table 3: Engagement Tools and Techniques	12

Figure index

Figure 1: IAP2 Framework for public participation	3
---	---

Figure 2: Community Engagement Spectrum for three development models5
Figure 3: Engagement activities undertaken by Epuron7

Appendices

Appendix A – Identification of stakeholders
Appendix B – Project Factsheets
Appendix C – Community Newsletters

1. Introduction

1.1 Project context and overview

The proposed Rye Park Wind Farm is a major new wind farm proposal in the Yass area of NSW. It is in the process of being developed by Trustpower Australia Holdings Pty Ltd (Trustpower) since their acquisition of the project from Epuron Pty Ltd (Epuron) in 2014.. Although Epuron will continue to have some involvement in the planning approval process, Trustpower now holds predominant responsibility for the project and is the official proponent.

Trustpower is a publicly owned company operating across Australia and New Zealand. It owns and operates primarily renewable energy assets, including 39 hydro stations and 2 wind farms in New Zealand, and 3 hydro power stations and 4 wind farms in Australia. This experience has equipped Trustpower with an experiential understanding of the complexity and sensitivity of such projects, and led to a commitment to consulting widely with local communities and key stakeholders on all projects to manage real and perceived impacts.

Since acquisition of the Rye Park Wind Farm project, Trustpower has reviewed the engagement undertaken by Epuron in previous phases of the project and developed a comprehensive voluntary community consultation process for current and future phases of the Rye Park Wind Farm project, including the Development Assessment Process.

1.2 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to outline the consultation process that has occurred to date, including a brief synopsis of initial engagement activities by Epuron prior to Trustpower's acquisition of the wind farm. Engagement activities by Trustpower since their acquisition of the wind farm will be outlined in greater detail as this engagement has resulted in changes to the layout and the Amended EIS. The main purpose of the engagement has been to provide accurate information on the Rye Park Wind Farm project and wind farms in general, building upon previous engagement undertaken by Epuron with the local Rye Park Wind Farm community and other key stakeholders.

The consultation program has utilised a range of activities including one on one meetings, newsletters, site visits, meetings with key stakeholders, Rye Park CCC, and a community information day.

It is typical for large and complex projects to evolve over a period of time in response to information from the community, stakeholders and technical studies. This has occurred throughout the life of this project and it is assumed that this will continue as part of the Environmental Assessment process. The previous, current and future stages of engagement are demonstrated below in Table 1.

Table 1 : Stakeholder and Engagement phases

Phase	Stakeholder Engagement Lead
Phase 1 – Site Selection	Epuron
Phase 2 – Feasibility	Epuron
Phase 3 – Planning and Approval (Current)	Trustpower
Phase 4 – Construction	Trustpower
Phase 5 – Commissioning and Operations	Trustpower
Phase 6 – De-Commissioning	Trustpower

2. Consultation Objectives

2.1 Guidelines for best practice

To ensure best practice, the project was guided by the following resources in engaging with stakeholders and the community:

The International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) core values participation spectrum (

- Figure 1).
- Best practice community engagement in wind development (Lane, T. and Hicks, J) 2014 (Figure 2).
- Community Engagement Guidelines for the Wind Industry (Clean Energy Council) 2013.
- Director General's Requirements issued for the project by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Figure 1: IAP2 Framework for public participation

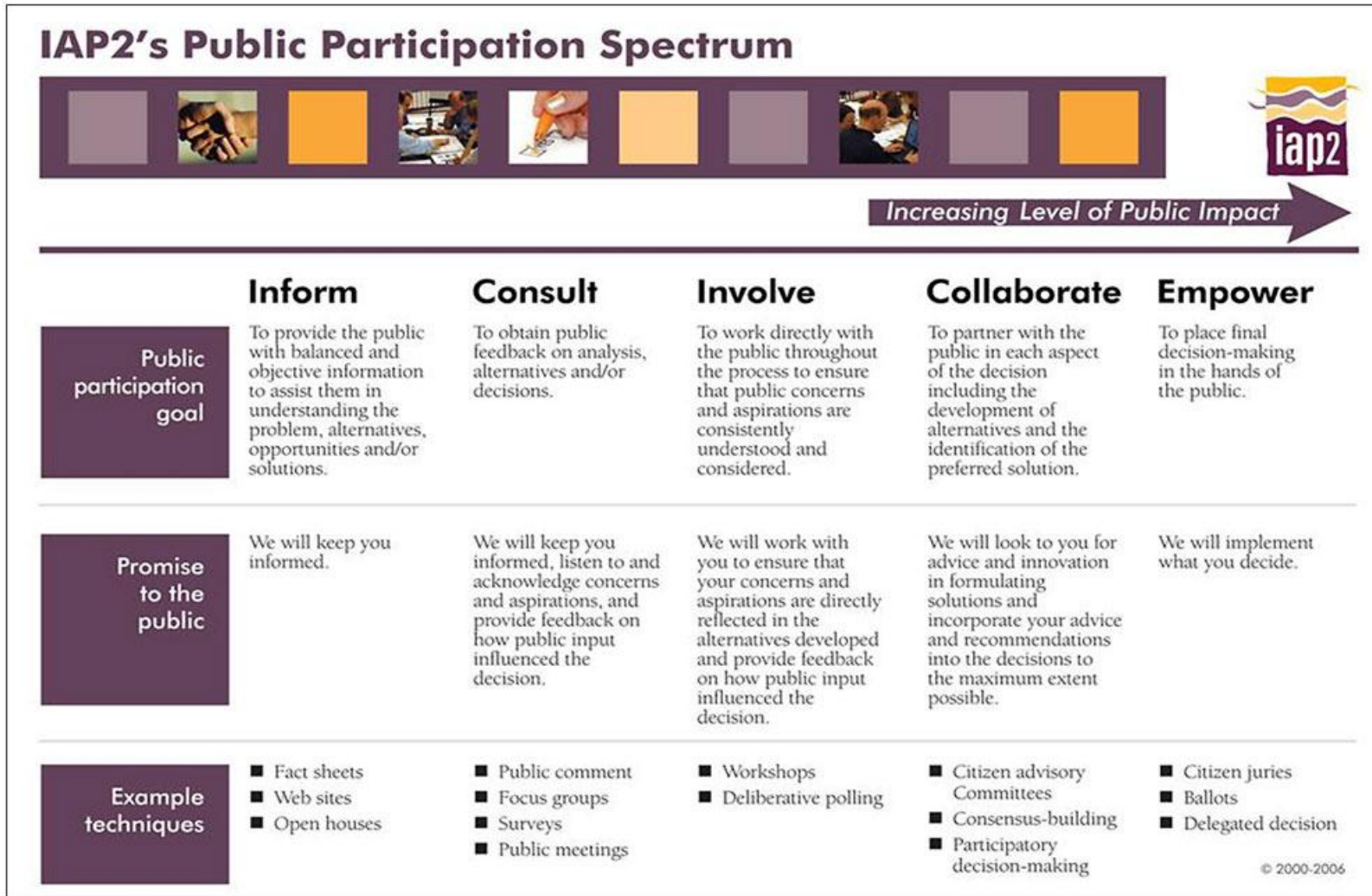


Figure 2 (below) uses the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation to demonstrate the varying degree of community engagement and their outcomes across three models of wind development: standard developer, highly engaged developer and community initiated and led.

Figure 2: Community Engagement Spectrum for three development models

	Standard developer approach with compliance level doing development 'to' a community		High level of engagement or a community-developer partnership doing development 'with' a community		Community initiated wind farm doing a development 'for' and/or 'by' a community
	inform	consult	involve	collaborate	empower
Community engagement objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide balanced and objective information assist community in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtain feedback on plans, options and/or decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> work directly with community throughout the process, from feasibility through operations and decommissioning ensure concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> partner with community in each aspect of planning, development and decision making, including the identification of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the community to lead the development of the wind farm place final decision-making in the hands of the community
Promise to community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep the community informed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep the community informed listen and acknowledge concerns provide feedback on how community input influenced the decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to work with community to ensure concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed provide feedback on how community input influenced the decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> look to community for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions incorporate advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to implement what the community decides
Community engagement outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> securing landowner sites gaining planning permission meeting compliance regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimising objections effectively managing complaints good landholder relations a level of community trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> long term broad local social acceptance of the wind farm strengthened local relationships and trust local advocates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community-developer partnership where a portion of the wind farm is owned by local community greater community benefit a welcoming and supportive host community strong local relationships and trust timely development of the wind farm long term social acceptance and local advocates for the wind farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefit sharing model tailored to the local context community scaled project harness the skills and capital of the community upskill community members to manage the project largely community owned and controlled

Blue represents standard developer level, green represents high level of engagement, orange represents community initiated.

2.2 Community engagement spectrum

It is important to note that the approach to community engagement for Rye Park Wind Farm did not fit neatly into any of the three models of wind development outlined above in Figure 2. At different phases the project has sat between, and often moved across, the categories.

The engagement activities delivered during Phase 3 of the project have sought to achieve a 'consult' level of engagement. However different activities and scenarios as the project progresses may provide the opportunity for the 'Involve' and 'Collaborate' level of engagement. Other activities will be undertaken at the 'Inform' level of engagement to ensure community members are made aware of project updates and any activities in a timely manner.

2.3 Summary of previous consultation by Epuron

The Rye Park Wind Farm Project Consultation Plan, January 2013 was developed by Epuron to guide stakeholder engagement activity for the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm during the development phase (up to project approval). An exhaustive list of stakeholders identified can be found in Appendix A.

On the following page, Figure 3 shows a summary of activities linked to the different phases of the project undertaken during Epuron's ownership of the project. All of these previous engagement activities undertaken by Epuron were reviewed in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, 2015. This led to an effective transition upon Trustpower's acquisition of the wind farm development from Epuron, enabling the implementation of an action plan which proactively responded to stakeholders and community members throughout the planning and approvals stage of the project.

Figure 3: Engagement activities undertaken by Epuron

Phase	Activity
01 – Site selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters • Community information workshop (November 2008)
02 - Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Rye Park Wind Farm project website • Series of Newsletters and Community Updates distributed to all stakeholders and broader community. • Individual and group meetings with all three local Councils. • 26/07/2012 info day prior to lodgement of DA. • Face to face meetings with neighbours. • Presentations and briefings to local industry groups, education institutions and local Chamber of Commerce's. • Establishment of the Rye Park Wind Farm CCC.
03- Planning & Approvals to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 March 2014, the Planning Minister announced the transition of the project from transitional Part 3A to 'State Significant Development' under Part 4 of the EP&A Act 1979. Subsequently, DPE placed the Environmental Assessment on public exhibition from 2 May to 4 July. • Series of face to face meetings with neighbours. • Series of Community Open Houses (August 2012, May 2014, June 2014). • Briefings and email updates to General Managers, Members of Parliament, Mayors and Councillors of Boorowa, Yass Valley and Upper Lachlan Shire Councils. • Adverts placed in Yass Tribune and Boorowa News to update the community on the project. • Ongoing CCC Meetings (7 to date).

2.4 Communication objectives and approach

Trustpower is committed to developing, maintaining and building on the relationships that have been established by Epuron with the local Rye Park Wind Farm community and other key stakeholders.

Given wind farm projects such as these are complex and sensitive in nature, they require extensive community and stakeholder engagement due to the real and perceived impacts, particularly visual and noise related, to neighbouring properties, the natural environment and the wider community.

The focus of communications during the planning phase of the project was to seek input from the community about the proposed development, in particular what they value about their community, and respond to and address the community's concerns in a timely manner.

2.4.1 Communication objectives

The objective of this strategy was to:

- Develop strong links with the directly impacted neighbours to develop tolerance and potentially support for the proposed wind farm.
- Build a deeper knowledge base within the community about how project impacts will be managed.
- Build greater understanding within the community about the benefits of the project.
- Provide opportunities for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and to identify areas of concern regarding the project.
- Ensure project information is widely available to those stakeholders with an interest.
- Provide greater rigour to the document management and complaint management processes.
- Demonstrate how community feedback was used in the development of the project.

2.4.2 Trustpower's stakeholder engagement principles

The principles outlined below have guided the Rye Park Wind Farm project team to nurture stakeholder and community trust in the project. The principles provide guidance as to how Trustpower should undertake engagement with stakeholders and the community.

Engage early

Trustpower must be the first to inform about the project, its context, its risks and benefits and anything else that will potentially impact communities.

Be visible

Ensure that Trustpower has a representative who can be the main point of contact for the community throughout the project and is available for a face to face meeting if required. Trustpower must commit appropriate senior management for community forums and other relevant community or stakeholder meetings.

Be part of the community

Look for opportunities to involve the community – employ locals where possible, use local accommodation, buy food and beverages locally. Ensure sponsorships or financial investments

into the community are in the long-term interest of that community and have the community's support.

Do what we say we'll do

Deliver on promises to the community.

Be an effective communicator

Talk with, not at. Be inclusive in communication, consider others point of view. Use transparent, simple and straightforward communication. Do not go under the radar. Be aware who might be listening.

Behave appropriately

Behave in line with Trustpower values. Demonstrate empathy. Be sensitive and respectful and acknowledge community concerns.

Monitor continuously

Plan and implement this engagement program and monitor and review the effectiveness and outcomes.

Be flexible

Change the strategy if it's not working.

2.5 Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan

Trustpower engaged consultant GHD to prepare a Stakeholder and Community Engagement plan to provide structure and rigour to communications throughout the planning phase of the Rye Park Wind Farm Project prior to the lodgement of the development application.

This overarching strategy provided the framework to facilitate a consistent approach, allowing for proactive stakeholder and community engagement during the project development application process. The stakeholder and community engagement approach developed was designed to be dynamic and flexible so that adjustments could be made to meet the expectations of the community.

The purpose of the plan was to identify stakeholders, issues and risks, the approach and methodology for engaging the stakeholders and community. The overall aim was to better equip the Rye Park Wind Farm project team with techniques and a tool kit to proactively respond to the stakeholders and community members through the planning phase of the development. An overview of the plan is provided below.

Table 2: Summary of Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan

Communication Tool	Objective	Target stakeholders	Actions	Completed
Develop a consultation and enquiry database management system using Consultation Manager	<p>Assist in tracking issues, identifying trends and providing early identification of concerns.</p> <p>Provides a framework for monitoring enquiries.</p> <p>Allows instant generation of issues/response for reporting requirements.</p>	All	Develop a consultation and enquiry management system using Consultation Manager.	Yes
Develop a community information line and project email.	Develop systems to act as support tools for issues management.	All	Widely promote on all project communication materials.	Yes
Project website	To provide a 'one stop shop' for all project information and respond to community needs	All	<p>Regularly update project webpage with information following milestones</p> <p>Update project webpage regularly and ensure community concerns are addressed</p>	Yes
<p>Communication collateral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project fact sheets • Q and A's • Community newsletters 	<p>To build capacity and knowledge of the potential project impacts</p> <p>Demonstrate how community feedback is being used in the development of the project</p>	All	<p>Develop fact sheets that respond to the community's concerns.</p> <p>Update Q and A's regularly to ensure the community's concerns are being addressed</p>	Yes

Communication Tool	Objective	Target stakeholders	Actions	Completed
Face to face meetings	<p>To provide factual information on the project and identify any specific areas of concern or interest.</p> <p>To build confidence in the Trustpower project team and the approval process.</p> <p>To build partnerships with the community and allay concerns from lack of information on earlier stages of project</p>	Adjoining landowners, key stakeholders and concerned stakeholders	<p>Seek feedback from community about the consultation process during face to face meetings and feedback forms to ensure process remains appropriate</p> <p>Meet with concerned community members to provide information about how project impacts are being managed.</p>	Yes
Direct mail out to key stakeholders	To demonstrate willingness to answer questions and concerns and provide them with further information.	Key stakeholders Adjoining landowners		Yes
Community Information Sessions	To provide information on the project, address community concerns and get community buy-in to the project.		<p>Advertise community information sessions providing at least 2 weeks' notice</p> <p>Hold community open days to discuss key issues and find solutions (as required)</p> <p>Provide feedback forms following consultation activities</p>	Yes

3. Overview of Community Engagement Activities

An intensive community consultation has been undertaken from July 2015 to inform stakeholders of the development of the Rye Park Wind Farm proposal. The key methods for providing information and seeking input into the project are listed in below.

Table 3: Engagement Tools and Techniques

Engagement Tools and Techniques	Approvals	Internal Stakeholders	Government agencies / Referral Bodies including LGA	Industry and Business	Host Landowners	Adjoining Landowners within 2 - 5km	Interest & Community Groups	Political	Lobby Groups	Media
Project Newsletters		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Individual Letters	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Telephone Calls	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√
Fact Sheets		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Project webpage		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Media Releases			√					√		√
Static Displays				√		√	√		√	
Community Information Days			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Emails			√	√			√	√		
Project Presentations	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	
1:1 face to face Individual Meetings	√		√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Targeted meetings	√		√		√			√		

3.1 Consultation approach

When Trustpower acquired the wind farm a database was established in Consultation Manager. Consultation Manager is an online consultation database platform, which provides an effective system for tracking project stakeholders and their 'issues' on an ongoing basis.

Consultation Manager records and maintains the names, addresses and contacts details for all stakeholders, organisations and people that express interest in the project, thereby simplifying data entry, communication and reporting processes. This database keeps a detailed account of all landowners directly affected by the proposed wind farm, broader landowners, community members, councils and community groups. It also kept a record of all interactions with any individual and Trustpower. The Trustpower project team will continue to maintain a record of all interactions with project stakeholders.

Following is a summary of all consultation activities since December 2014.

3.2 Communication Collateral

Website

Trustpower formulated a website where all information regarding the proposed Wind Farm project can be found.

Website: www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Contact Details

A specific telephone number and email address was established for the project.

Email - ryeparkwindfarm@trustpower.com.au

Telephone - 1800 839 661

Project fact sheet (Appendix B)

A Project Fact Sheet was developed to provide to the community as a way of addressing a range of topics in relation to the proposed Rye Park Windfarm.

The Fact Sheet addressed a range of topics, including an overview of the project and Trustpower, the approvals process and consultation, noise and health impacts, fire management, local and regional benefits and a range of other relevant topics.

Community newsletters (Appendix C)

Two newsletters were produced throughout the consultation phases and used to provide updates on the Palmer Wind Farm Proposal. These followed on from earlier newsletters produced by Epuron, dating back to December 2009.

3.3 Mail out

As detailed above, a comprehensive database of stakeholders has been compiled over the course of the consultation process. As a result of the development of this data base, numerous mail-outs have been undertaken providing information on the proposed wind farm, invitations to an information day and project updates were sent to all individuals in the database.

3.4 Individual Phone Calls

Trustpower established an 1800 839 661 number for individuals specifically for this project. This has allowed stakeholders to have a central, free number to call and for Trustpower to respond to all calls in a timely manner.

Initially Trustpower made phone contact with affected landowners and adjoining landowners within 5 kilometres of proposed turbines as priority to offer a briefing session and/or a face to face meeting to provide a project update, allay project concerns and provide factual information on the project.

Any landowners that could not be contacted via telephone or email were sent or left an information pack and a calling card.

The Information Pack included all available communication collateral on the project and Fact Sheets on Wind Farms from the Clean Energy Council (CEC).

3.5 Face to face meetings

Trustpower recognises that face to face meetings are critical to engagement within the community. Meetings were offered to all host landowners, adjoining landowners within 2-5km, all local government bodies in the affected area and other relevant key stakeholders. Discussions were recorded in the consultation manager database and concerns raised that Trustpower were not able to immediately address were also recorded.

3.6 Community Information

The project team provided each of the Councils with information on the wind farm to be available in the Council foyers. The information included an updated project fact sheet and newsletters. Community Information Day

A community information day was held in the Rye Park Memorial Hall in Rye Park on Tuesday September 22, 2015 from 1:00pm to 8:00pm.

The objective of the information day was to provide the local community with further information on the proposed wind farm and provide an opportunity to discuss and raise any issues with a Trustpower team member or specialist technical consultant.

The community information day was advertised through a number of avenues, including:

- The Yass Tribune.
- Boorowa News.
- Goulburn Post's Town & Country Magazine.
- Individual invitations sent to all key stakeholders identified in the database.
- Invite posted on the Rye Park website.
- Information posters displayed in local businesses, prominent locations and local Council offices.

Consultants in attendance at the information day included:

- TrustPower – Rontheo van Zyl, Michael Head, Ben Vincent and Nicole Foran.
- Epuron – Donna Bolton and Virgil Robinson (Visual).
- Sonus – Chris Turnbull (Noise).
- ngh Environmental - Dave Maynard (Flora and Fauna).
- Green Bean Design - Andy Homewood (Landscape and Visual Impact).

3.7 Media releases

Media releases were used by Trustpower to promote the Community Information Day as well as manage public perceptions arising during the information day.

The media releases were distributed to The Yass Tribune, Boorowa News, Canberra Times, Cowra Guardian, Goulburn Post, Town & Country, AAP and ABC Central West and Western Plains, as well as all local MPs.

3.8 Neighbouring Benefit Scheme

Trustpower has developed a Neighbour Benefit Scheme to offer all neighbours living within 2km of a constructed turbine. The agreement is completely voluntary and offered to neighbours with an existing dwelling within 2km of a turbine.

Eligible landowners were contacted by phone and personal letters to offer to meet face to face to provide more information and the scheme and answer any questions.

3.9 Rye Park Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

A Rye Park Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established early in the project and is now being managed by Trustpower. Since Trustpower acquired the windfarm the Rye Paark CCC have meet on the following occasions:

- 26th August 2015.
- 14th October 2015

Copies of the minutes and agenda of these meeting are included in Appendix D.

3.10 Presentation to LGA and other key stakeholders

In response to feedback that stakeholder and community consultation has been poor. Trustpower have had a number of meetings and discussions with the following key stakeholders:

State Government

- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)

Local Government

- Yass Valley Council
- Boorowa Council
- Upper Lachlan Council

4. Issue Analysis and Response

4.1 Key Issues raised

A vast range of issues have been raised during the community consultation and public exhibition period from 2 May 2014 – 4 July 2014. In no particular order of importance the following key issues were raised:

- Visual impact.
- Noise impact.
- Impact on biodiversity.
- Traffic and transport impacts.

- Lack of community consultation.
- Impact on property values.
- Health impacts.
- Fire and bush fire management.
- Aviation impacts.
- Impact on telecommunications.

4.2 Additional works

Since the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment the following works have been undertaken to address the key issues and concerns raised during the public exhibition period. This work has included:

- Further biodiversity and cultural heritage surveys.
- Independent Planning Assessment Report.
- Updating all consultant report to reflect the amended layout.
- Developed and implemented an extensive community and stakeholder engagement plan.
- Additional aviation impact reporting.
- Revised Traffic Management Plan and road upgrade.
- Native vegetation offsets.
- Establishment of a community fund and neighbouring benefit scheme.

4.3 Amendments to layout

As a result of issues raised by the community and key stakeholders the following key changes have been made to the layout:

- A reduction in the number of turbines from 126 to 109.
- An alternative 132kV grid connection approximately 15km west of the wind farm site to allow for flexibility in staging and available market for the output.
- An 132kV overhead powerline and connection substation to connect to one of TransGrids existing 132kV powerlines in the area.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, this report clearly demonstrates the thorough, dynamic and neutral method that Trustpower have taken to ensure effective community engagement has informed the development of the Rye Park Wind Farm since the company's acquisition of the project from Epuron in 2014 and in preparing the revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This has been evident from the beginning of the acquisition through the application of best practice guidelines that are both overarching and specific to the wind farm industry, as well as the establishment of clear objectives and principles to guide each phase of the process. Furthermore, the engagement of independent consulting firm GHD to prepare a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan has provided a rigorous and objective approach to communications throughout the planning phase of the project prior to the lodgement of this development application.

The synopsis of previous consultation by Epuron, as well as the summary of communication tools used, community engagement activities undertaken, stakeholder groups engaged, and issues identified have demonstrated Trustpower's understanding of and commitment to continued positive and transparent engagement with the community.

Trustpower will continue to consult, liaise and engage with the community, affected landowners and key stakeholders. The process is considered a crucial and ongoing priority that is vital to both the success of the project and the professional reputation of Trustpower.

Trustpower is committed to developing and maintaining positive long term relationships with its local Rye Park Wind Farm community and other key stakeholders to ensure the development achieves considered and sustainable outcomes.

Appendices

Appendix A – Identification of stakeholders

Federal
Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC).
Federal Member for Hume - Mr Angus Taylor MP
Minister for the Environment - The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
State
Acting Department Secretary - Carolyn McNally
Department of Planning and Environment
Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (Resources and Energy Division)
Resources and Energy Deputy Secretary – Kylie Hargraves
Energy Executive Director – Andrew Lewis
Department Secretary – Mark Paterson AO
Director Office of the Director –General – Simon Manoski
Local Land Services – South East Division
New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
Office of the Environment and Heritage -The Regional Clean Energy Program
Chris Mackenzie-Davey OEH
South East: Chris Mackenzie-Davey, Mark Fleming
Senior Team Leader – All Areas: Mark Squires
Planning Assessment Commission
Transport for NSW
Ministers
Minister for Planning - The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP (Liberal) (Decision Maker)
Assistant Minister for Planning, Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage- The Hon. Mark Speakman, MP (Liberal) (Decision Maker)
Minister for Roads and Freight – The Hon Gay Duncan, MP
Minister for Primary Industries (Nationals) - The Hon. Niall Blair
Minister for Resources and Energy– The Hon. Anthony John Roberts, MA (Comms) MP (Liberal)
Emergency Services
Fire and Rescue New South Wales
Rural Fire Service, NSW

Local Government

Boorowa Council

Mayor: Councillor Wendy Tuckerman

Councillor Angus Clements

Councillor Christopher Corcoran

Councillor David Evans

Councillor Robert Gledhill

Councillor Tim McGrath

Councillor John (Jack) Ryan

Councillor Andrew Southwell

Councillor Peter Sykes

Anthony McMahon, General Manager

J Jordan, Assistant General Manager

A Stewart Infrastructure Planning Manager - A Stewart

S Parson Engineering Works Manager

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Mayor: Councillor John Shaw

Deputy Mayor: Councillor James Wheelwright

Councillor John Searl

Councillor Scott Craig

Councillor Darren O'Brien

Councillor Jo Marshall

Councillor Paul Culhane

Councillor Malcolm Barlow

Councillor Brian McCormack

John Bell, General Manager

Phillip Newman, Director of Works and Operations

Andrew Croke, Director of Finance and Administration

Mrs Tina Dodson, Director and Environment and Planning

Yass Valley Council

Mayor Rowena Abbey

Councillor Michael McManus, Deputy Mayor

Councillor Geoff Frost

Councillor Cec Burgess

Councillor Greg Butler

Councillor Ann Daniel

Councillor Jasmin Jones

Councillor David Needham

Councillor Garry Ware
Councillor Allan McGrath
Councillor Judith Williams
Councillor Chris McHarg
Councillor Bill Luchetti
Councillor Nic Carmody
David Rowe, General Manager
Sheri Norton, Director of Corporate & Community Services
Simon Cassidy, Director of Operations
Pail DeSzell, Director of Planning & Environmental Services
Rye Park CCC Members
Nic Carmody - Independent Chairman Yass Valley Councillor
Councillor James Wheelwright - Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Councillor Ann Daniel - Yass Valley Council
Mayor Wendy Tuckerman - Boorowa Council
Greg Medway - Involved landowner
Malcolm Day - Involved landowner
Joyce Day - Involved landowner
Graeme Privett - Involved landowner
Bev Davis - Uninvolved landowner
Jayne Apps - Uninvolved landowner
Alex Davis - Uninvolved landowner
Landowners
Host Landowners
Adjoining landowners (uninvolved landowners) with a dwelling within 2km
Adjoining landowners (Involved landowners) with a dwelling within 2km
Involved and uninvolved landowners with a property within 2km
Traditional Landowners
Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
Karen Denny
Wally Bell
Tyrone Bell
Onerwal Aboriginal Land Council, Yass
Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
Community Groups / Schools
Boorowa Community Landcare Group

Lachlan River Catchment Region Landcare Group, called LachLandcare.
Chair - Charlie Arnott (also a board member of the Waubra Foundation, Boorowa resident and past Chair of Boorowa Community Landcare Group)

Boorowa Country Women's Association

Rural Fire Services (Upper Lachlan)

Yass Chamber of Commerce

Rotary Club of Yass

Yass Valley Indigenous Consultative Committee

Yass Branch Country Woman's Association

Lions Club of Yass

Probus Club of Yass

NSW Farmers Association – Yass Branch

Boorowa Rotary Club

Boorowa Recreation Club – Sharon Webster

St Joseph's Catholic School

Boorowa Central School

Yass Public School (P&C)

Yass High School (P & C)

Boorowa Ex-Services and Citizens Club – Gary Dwyer

Mount Carmel School (P&F)

Opinion Leaders

Waubra Foundation

Charlie Arnott (Also Boorowa resident and Chair of Lachlan River Catchment Region Landcare Group and past Chair of Boorowa Community Landcare Group) Peter Mitchell, Sarah Laurie, Tony Hodgson; Clive Tadgell; Doctor Michael Wooldridge.

Boorowa District Landscape Guardians

Utilities

Transgrid

State Water Corporation

New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (Office of Water)

Aviation

Aviation – RAAF and Department of Defence

Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia

Air Services Australia

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Other

Invest Canberra

Australian National University

Media

Local Media

Yass Tribune

Boorowa News

Yass FM Radio

The Daily Advertiser

National Media

Print, Radio and TV

Local Businesses

Boorowa Hotel

Internal Stakeholder

Trustpower Project Team

Project Manager

Epuron Project Team

Appendix B – Project Information Poster

Below is an overview of the Posters produced for the Community Information Days. These posters have now been assembled into a printed booklet and are also available on the Project website.

- Project Overview
- About Trustpower
- Approvals Process & Consultation
- Noise
- Health Impacts
- Fauna
- Flora
- Cultural Heritage
- Local & Regional Benefits
- Property Values
- Fire Management
- Aviation Impacts
- Traffic Management
- Issues Raised During Public Exhibition



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Project Overview



Site Location

- Located to the north of Yass and east of Borowra on the Edge of the Southern Tablelands and South West Slopes near Rye Park township.
- Located within three local government areas – Yass Valley, Borowra and Upper Lachlan.
- Long ridge line running north-south at right angles to the prevailing wind direction making it an excellent wind resource.




Supporting Infrastructure

- Six permanent wind monitoring masts.
- Two connection substations (132kV and 330 kV) with associated overhead power lines and on-site substations.
- Overhead and underground 33kV reticulation.
- Up to three collection substations.
- Up to two operations and maintenance facilities.
- Temporary construction facilities.
- Vehicle access tracks generally up to 10m wide.
- Improvements to public roads.

Turbine Layout

- Up to 109 turbines and hardstands.
- Blade tip height of 157m.
- Approximate installed capacity up to 327 mw.
- Turbine hardstand areas for each turbine:
 - Hardstand platform & foundation for (approx. 50m x 30m).
 - Temporary laydown areas (approx. 20m x 20m).
- Turbine foundations:
 - Either mass concrete foundations (roughly 6m diameter at surface, 21m diameter underground, 3.2m deep).
 - Or pile rock anchor foundations.
- Turbine transformers – either pad mounted external enclosed kiosks (roughly 2m x 2m) or inside towers.

For More Information

Please Visit the Project Website
www.ryeparkwf.com.au
 or contact the Project Team on
 1800 839 661
 or email
ryeparkwindfarm@trustpower.com.au
 Office Address | GPO Box 1512 Adelaide SA 5001




RYE PARK WINDFARM

About Trustpower



Overview

Trustpower Australia Holdings Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Trustpower Limited, a publicly owned company, operating in Australia and New Zealand.

We own and operate primarily renewable energy assets including:

- 39 hydro stations (3 in Australia)
- 4 wind farms in New Zealand
- 4 wind farms in Australia (Snowtown 1 & 2, Blythe and Crookwell)

Trustpower began investigating wind farms in SA in 2001, which resulted in the Snowtown Wind Farm construction. 5 years ago we began to expand into other States, and are currently actively developing sites in 4 States, including the Rye Park project in NSW.

Trustpower will be the owner and operator of the Rye Park Wind Farm.

Snowtown Wind Farm in SA

Trustpower started investigating the site for a wind farm in 2003 and commenced construction of the first stage of the wind farm in 2006.

Stage 1 of the Snowtown Wind Farm was commissioned in September 2008 with 47 Suzlon S88 2.1MW turbines. In 2011, an additional prototype Suzlon S88 2.1MW turbine was installed and commissioned. Since 2008, Stage 1 has provided reliable electricity into the South Australian electricity network delivering a long term capacity factor of 43%, one of the highest wind farm outputs in Australia.

Final approvals for Stage 2 of the Snowtown Wind Farm were secured in August 2012 to install a further 49 Siemens 3.0 MW turbines with an output of up to 270MW. Snowtown 2 was completed in June 2014. With the completion of Snowtown 2, the total output of the combined Snowtown Wind Farm will be 370MW, making it the biggest single wind farm in South Australia. This is enough to power over 200,000 SA homes & offset 1,045,000 tonnes of CO₂ produced by coal-fired electricity generation every year (Stage 1: 345,000 tonnes; Stage 2: 700,000 tonnes). That's the equivalent of removing around 225,000 cars from the roads.

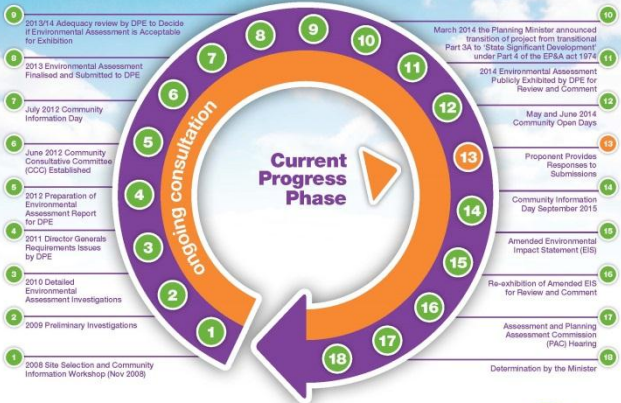
The strong relationships we've shared with landowners and local community groups have been fundamental to the project's success. Our long established commitment to both Snowtown and the wider community through the Land a Hand Foundation provides support for local community projects, charities, schools and individuals when they need it most. Run in conjunction with the Snowtown Lions Club, this initiative (now also supported by Siemens) contributes \$50,000 annually to the Foundation.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Approvals Process & Consultation

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the consent authority for the Rye Park Wind Farm. The diagram below shows the steps in the Environmental Assessment. The original Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project was lodged under part 3A under the EPRA Act with DPE in March 2014. The EA was placed on public exhibition between May - July 2014. As a result of the introduction of the additional 132kV transmission lines and the changes to the layout to address issues raised during the exhibition period and the transition of the project from Part 3A to State Significant Development (SSD) under the EPAA Act, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has advised that a Revised EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is to be prepared including the responses to submissions in the original EA. The Amended EIS will be re-exhibited for public comment in late 2015.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Noise

Noise Assessment

An Environmental Noise Assessment has been prepared for the Rye Park Wind Farm to address the Director General's Requirements (DGRs) relating to operational and construction noise and vibration. The DGRs require operational noise to be assessed against the South Australian Environmental Noise Wind Farm Guidelines 2003 (the EPA Guidelines). The EPA Guidelines compare the predicted noise levels from the wind farm against criteria developed from measured background noise levels to ensure there are no adverse noise impacts on the amenity of the surrounding community. Based on the assessment, the noise from the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm will achieve the environmental noise criteria established in accordance with the EPA Guidelines at all dwellings. The assessment of operational noise from the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm will be repeated during the procurement stage to demonstrate that the final turbine selection and final layout following "micro-siting" will achieve compliance with the EPA Guidelines.

The steps in the assessment comprised:

1. Collation of measurement data for the background noise levels at 20 representative dwelling locations in the surrounding community;
2. Establishment of the project noise criteria based on the background noise levels and the EPA Guidelines;
3. Prediction of the noise levels using the CONCAWE noise propagation model under worst-case (highest noise level) meteorological conditions;
4. Comparison of the predicted noise levels at each residence against the relevant noise criteria to ensure compliance with the EPA Guidelines.

A noise contour showing the highest predicted noise level from the wind farm has been prepared (refer below). The contour shows the predicted noise levels at any location, the turbine locations and the nearest dwellings in the surrounding community.

Sound Perception

A simulation of the sound from a wind farm has been established for this information day. The simulation enables the noise level corresponding to any location on the contour plan to be listened to as an indication of the level and character of noise from the wind farm.

Construction Noise and Vibration

The construction of a wind farm comprises activities such as road construction, civil works, excavation and hardstand construction, electrical infrastructure works and turbine erection. These activities are similar to other construction projects in that they generally generate short term and transient noise; however, in the case of a wind farm, the construction occurs at significant separation distances. The separation distances will result in appreciable attenuation of the noise and vibration generated by the activity. Notwithstanding, the management of construction noise requires appropriate programming, community consultation and the use of the best available and practical work practices and mitigation measures balanced against the requirement to expeditiously complete the project. A Construction Noise and Vibration Management Framework has been prepared for the Rye Park Wind Farm which provides the necessary feasible and reasonable measures for general construction, traffic and potential blasting activity to ensure compliance with the Department of Environment & Climate Change Interim Construction Noise Guidelines 2009 (the ICN Guidelines) in accordance with the DGRs.

Frequently Asked Questions

The most frequently asked questions regarding wind farm noise relate to low frequency noise and infrasound:

1. Early wind turbines were constructed with blades located downwind of the tower. These turbines produced significant levels of infrasound (sound below 20Hz) as a result of the wake caused by the tower. Modern wind turbines are constructed with blades upwind of the tower, resulting in infrasound levels well below the level of perception at residential setback distances.
2. Sonus has conducted studies into the level of infrasound produced by wind turbines. These studies confirm that the level of infrasound from wind turbines is no greater than the noise encountered from other natural and non-natural noise sources on a daily basis.
3. A study by the South Australian Environment Protection Authority into infrasound (infrasound levels near wind farms and in other environments, January 2013) provided findings which were consistent with the Sonus studies, including:
 - The measured levels of infrasound from wind farms are well below the threshold of perception; and
 - The measured infrasound levels around wind farms are no higher than levels measured at other locations where people live, work and sleep; and
 - The characteristics of noise produced by wind farms are not unique and are common in everyday life.
4. Noise sources that produce low frequency content (such as a freight train locomotive) have dominant noise content in the frequency range between 20Hz and 200Hz. Low frequency noise is often described as a "rumble". Aerodynamic noise from a wind turbine is not dominant in the low frequency range. The main content of aerodynamic noise generated by a wind turbine is often in the area known generically as the mid-frequencies, being between 200Hz and 1000Hz.
5. Low frequency sound produced by wind farms is not unique in overall level or content. Low frequency sound can be easily measured and heard at a range of locations at levels well in excess of the level in the vicinity of a wind farm.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Health Impacts



There is overwhelming scientific evidence and findings that indicate wind farms do not cause health issues.

Reviews conducted by leading health and research organisations from all over the world, including Health Canada, the Australian Medical Association and Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council, have found no direct link between wind farms and health effects.

National Health and Medical Research Council

National Health and Medical Research Council (report February 2014) concluded that there is no reliable or consistent evidence that proximity to wind farms or wind farm noise either audible or inaudible and irrespective of frequency directly cause adverse health effects in humans. There is also no evidence that shadow flicker or electromagnetic radiation produced by wind turbines are associated with adverse health effects.

The NHMRC Statement: Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health (February 2015) was prepared on the advice of the Council of NHMRC with consideration of the comprehensive assessment of the evidence on wind farms and human health. The statement concludes that:

"After careful consideration and deliberation of the body of evidence, NHMRC concludes that there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans."

The NHMRC also released a draft information paper on wind farms and human health for public consultation in early 2012 which concluded:

"There is no reliable or consistent evidence that wind farms directly cause adverse health effects in humans."

Wind Farms and Human Health

Trustpower engaged Professor Gary Wittter (MBChD FRACP FRCP) to prepare a report on Wind Farms and Human Health. Professor Wittter is a leading researcher in this field who has provided expert evidence in the court has come to the following conclusions:

Infrasound

There is no evidence that inaudible infrasound are associated with any significant physiological or pathophysiological consequences. There is no evidence that the level of infrasound produced by wind turbines constitutes a problem to health.

Low-Frequency Noise

"The problem with low-frequency noise, as with high-frequency noise, relates to annoyances associated with audibility and the same range of moderating non-acoustic factors. There is no evidence that adverse health effects can be directly attributable to inaudible low-frequency sound emissions."

Wind Farm Noise and Adverse Health Effects

"There is no evidence that audible noise resulting from the operations of wind turbines constitutes a significant risk to health in the majority of individuals."

NSW Health Department

In 2012, the NSW Health Department provided advice to the NSW Government that stated existing studies on wind farms and health issues had been examined and no known causal link could be established. The advice stated that fears that wind turbines make people sick are 'not scientifically valid' and that the arguments mounted by anti-wind farm campaigners are unconvincing. It went on to conclude there was no evidence for 'wind turbine syndrome', a collection of ailments including sleeplessness, headaches and high blood pressure that some people believe are caused by the noise of spinning blades.

Victorian Department of Health

The Victorian Department of Health has two booklets on wind farms, sound and health in May 2013.

The community information booklet concluded that:

"The evidence indicates that sound can only affect health at sound levels that are loud enough to be easily audible. This means that if you cannot hear a sound, there is no known way that it can affect health. This is true regardless of the frequency of the sound."

South Australian EPA Infrasound Study

A report by the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in 2013 found that the level of infrasound from wind turbines is insignificant and no different to any other source of noise, and that the worst contributors to household infrasound are air-conditioners, traffic and noise generated by people. The study concluded that the level of infrasound at houses near wind turbines was no greater than in other urban and rural environments, and stated that:

"The contribution of wind turbines to the measured infrasound levels is insignificant in comparison with the background level of infrasound in the environment."

Stony Gap Wind Farm in The Environment, Resources and Development Court of South Australia

In 2014, the decision was very clear in its summary judgement of the initial refusal, finding that:

"There is no basis for the refusal of development plan consent to the proposed development on the grounds of health effects."





RYE PARK WINDFARM

Fauna



Fauna Surveys

Background research informed the field surveys and included database searches, a literature review, a review of existing mapping data and review of existing information on fauna species in the area. Consultation with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage was also undertaken with regard to threatened fauna species.

A series of fauna surveys have been undertaken by NEM Environmental across the Proposed Rye Park Wind Farm sites over four years (from November 2011 to June 2015). Fauna survey comprised of a series of general and species-specific targeted methodologies. General surveys included:

- Habitat assessment;
- Hollow-bearing tree survey;
- Bird observation surveys including recording abundance and classifying flight height;
- Reptile hand searches targeting the potential threatened reptile habitat;
- Microbat census using 'Aabat' ultrasonic microbat call detection recording equipment; and
- Nocturnal surveys including call playback and spotlighting, focussing on threatened owls and mammals in suitable habitat.

Surveys targeting state and nationally listed threatened species included:

- Squared Oiler cage-trapping and targeted nocturnal survey;
- Swift Parrot surveys (capture migration to maintain);
- Superb Parrot surveys (habitat use and flight path mapping);
- Koala RFSAT surveys (local search surveys);
- Striped Legless Lizard artificial tile surveys;
- Golden Sun Moth surveys; and
- Threatened large forest owl call playback and spotlighting surveys.

Flora Results & Assessment

An initial desktop search of state and national threatened species databases was undertaken to identify threatened fauna species and communities that had the potential to be impacted by the project.

Based on the results of the desktop assessment and field surveys, key species groups considered to be at risk from the development included:

- Birds
- Bats
- Reptiles
- Invertebrates

Bird Survey

The bird surveys identified 99 birds species across the site. Key species considered to be at risk included raptors and threatened and migratory birds due to the potential for collision with operating turbines.

Five species of raptors were recorded during the surveys which included the Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk and Wedge-tailed Eagle. All these species are considered common in the region. The surveys confirmed the presence of the following threatened and migratory species:

- Eight state listed species including the Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, Flame Robin, Hooded Robin, Painted Honey-eater, Scarlet Robin, Speckled Warbler and White-throated Chant.
- One nationally listed species, the Superb Parrot.
- One migratory species; the rainbow Bee-eater was recorded to the west of the project site.

Superb Parrot flight path mapping identified a key movement corridor in the south of the site where the species traversed ridges where turbines were proposed. Turbines have been removed from this area to minimise the potential for impacts to this species.

Buffers of 70m have also been placed between turbines and continuous forest and wooded habitats to minimise the risks of collision in these areas. Buffers have also been placed around known nest trees for the Superb Parrot.

Bat Surveys

Ultrasonic bat call detection surveys recorded 15 species of microbat across the site including three threatened species:

- Eastern Bent-wing Bat
- Eastern False Pipit
- Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail bat

Bats are also at risk from collision impacts. Many bat species use an 'edge-space' aerial foraging strategy focussed on tree habitat and water bodies. Linear features such as roads, drains and ridges have also been recorded to have high bat activity.

The buffers that are in place to reduce collision risks to birds also minimise the risk to bats. Additionally, a tree and bat adaptive monitoring program will be implemented following construction to monitor impacts to birds and bats and respond accordingly.

Reptile Surveys

An artificial shelter survey using concrete roof tiles identified the presence of the state and nationally listed vulnerable species, Striped Legless Lizard. A single individual was recorded in cleared native grassland in the north of the project site. A nearby turbine and associated road infrastructure was removed from the project design to minimise the potential for impacts to this species.

Invertebrate Surveys

Surveys targeting the state and nationally listed Golden Sun Moth were conducted across the project site. The Golden Sun Moth was detected at seven of the ten sites surveyed suggesting it is widespread across areas of the site. Moths were found in a variety of habitats, but all sites where they were recorded supported Wetland Grass.



Minimising Impacts

Revisions of the project design have avoided identified areas of key habitat for threatened species. Measures such as the provision of buffers between turbines and better habitat areas and the implementation of a bird and bat adaptive management plan will further minimise potential impacts to fauna species. Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate offsets will be provided to compensate for the loss of native vegetation and habitats as a result of the project. Offsets will be managed for the long-term to provide good conservation outcomes for threatened species and ECCs.

RYE PARK WINDFARM

Flora

Flora Surveys

Background research informed the field surveys and included database searches, a literature review, a review of existing mapping data and review of existing information on flora species in the area. Consultation with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage was also undertaken with regard to threatened flora species.

Comprehensive flora surveys were undertaken by NGH Environmental across the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm site over three survey seasons (November 2011, November 2012 and June 2013). Over 250 person hours were spent in total on the flora surveys. Survey methods included:

- Detailed sampling in proposed development areas mapping vegetation types and condition.
- Broad scale rapid assessments over the broader project site mapping vegetation types.
- Targeted searches for threatened flora.

The surveys focused on areas of habitat for endangered ecological communities (EEC) and threatened flora species such as the:

- White Box - Yellow Box- Blakely's Red Gum (Box-Gum Woodland) EEC.
- Yass Daisy.
- Honey Scurry.
- Crimson Spider Orchid.

These communities and species were known to occur within or in close proximity to the proposed development. The surveys also targeted declared noxious weeds which pose a threat to threatened species and communities.



Box Gum Woodland

White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland is listed as an EEC under NSW legislation and is listed nationally as a critically endangered ecological community. Approximately 95% of this community has been cleared with the Lachlan catchment management area. The community is widespread on the lower slopes and valleys within the project site but much of it has been degraded with some good quality areas in the south of the site.

Box Gum Woodland provides habitat for threatened flora species and several threatened fauna species, particularly the Superb Parrot, Painted Honeyeater, Golden Sun Moth, and Striped Legless Lizard which have been recorded on the site.



Flora Results & Assessment

An initial desktop search of state and national threatened species databases was undertaken to identify threatened flora species and communities that had the potential to be impacted by the project.

During the site survey, seven vegetation types were identified within the project site, two of which formed part of the White Box - Yellow Box- Blakely's Red Gum (Box-Gum Woodland) EEC.

- Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland.
- Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland derived grassland.

Other non-endangered vegetation types identified were:

- Inland Scribbly Gum - Red Stringybark open forest.
- Argyle Apple - Acacia mearnsii valley open forest.
- Brittle Gum - Broad-leaved Peppermint open forest.
- Red Box Woodland.
- Phragmites Swamp.
- Sifton Bush Shrubland.
- Native pastures (derived from forest communities).
- Exotic dominated pasture.
- Planted vegetation (such as windbreaks etc).

No threatened flora species were recorded during the targeted surveys but ongoing surveys are still being conducted to determine if the Crimson Spider Orchid could be present at the site. This species has been recorded in Bangoo Nature Reserve which adjoins the site in the south-west. No other threatened flora species were considered likely to occur or be impacted by the project.

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition varies considerably throughout the project area and includes woodland and fragmented woodland which has been logged and is regenerating, native pasture with scattered trees, pasture dominated by exotic species, and to a lesser degree relatively undisturbed forest. The majority of the site has been subject to long-term grazing which has reduced native flora species diversity. Common weeds associated with grazing are widespread and have invaded areas of more intact woodland and forest vegetation. Two noxious weeds declared for the Bioscience CA were detected during the surveys:

- Scotch Thistle.
- Blackberry.

Large areas of the site are now dominated by the native colonising species Sifton Bush, which is not a declared noxious weed but is a recognised as serious weed of agricultural lands.

Minimising Impacts

Several revisions of the project design have occurred to reduce the impacts to the Box-Gum Woodland EEC, particularly in the better condition areas in the south of the project site. Other measures such as strict weed hygiene will also help to minimise possible impacts to the EEC.

Where impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate offsets will be provided to compensate for the loss of native vegetation and habitats as a result of the project. Offsets will be managed for the long-term to provide good conservation outcomes for threatened species and EECs.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Cultural Heritage

An Aboriginal and cultural heritage assessment has been undertaken for the Rye Park Wind Farm project area. The assessment was undertaken in accordance with the:

- Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (NSW DEC, July 2009).
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011).
- Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (NSW DECCW 2010a).

Thirteen Aboriginal object localities were recorded during the field survey, 10 of which are simple stone artefacts. Undetected or subsurface stone artefacts are predicted to be present in extremely low density.

Three quartz outcrops were recorded which may have been used as stone procurement areas by Aboriginal people.

Three European heritage items have been recorded. While these items do not warrant heritage listing, it is recommended that they also be avoided by micro-siting the relevant components during construction.



Trustpower as a precautionary measure has included the heritage sites as exclusion zones and have avoided any impacts as part of the layout design process.





RYE PARK WINDFARM

Local & Regional Benefits

The wind farm will deliver substantial economic and employment benefits.

Economic Development to Rural Communities

- Potential to generate \$162 million of value added (contribution to Gross State Product) in NSW, \$46 million of value added in ACT and \$49 million regionally over the construction period.
- \$600m dollar project.
- Support annually over \$3m of value added in the region once operational.
- Direct injection of \$2-\$3m per annum to the local community through payments to landholders, permanent staff and community fund contributions.
- Diversifies income streams for participating landowners.
- Provides a drought-proofing and post-retirement income stream for farmers.
- Significant direct expenditure in the local area during construction and ongoing operational expenditure.
- Flow on stimulus effects to the regional, state and national economy.





Environmental Benefits

- Small environmental footprint than comparative forms of generation.
- Additional fire breaks and improved access roads for firefighting.
- Will generate enough clean renewable energy to power 130,000 homes.
- Will save 800,000 tonnes carbon emissions per annum, equivalent of removing 260,000 cars off the roads per annum.
- Reduction of carbon footprint with a carbon payback of 9 months.

Employment

All our projects have resulted in significant local employment and we will continue to recommend maximising local employment in our construction contracts.

- Supports over 470 sustained jobs in NSW and 144 in the ACT over three year construction period.
- 62 direct jobs for local residents sustained during construction.
- Up to 12-15 ongoing jobs regionally once operational.

Trustpower is committed to providing financial support for local community services through community benefit schemes.




RYE PARK WINDFARM

Property Values

Wind farms Do Not Negatively Impact Property Prices

There have been multiple major studies by respected and independent organisations over the last few decades that have failed to demonstrate any correlation between wind turbines and declining property values. In fact, some of these studies found positive impacts.




International Studies

Internationally, a decade-long study across nine different states in the US by the Lawrence Berkeley National Research Laboratory found no negative relationship between wind turbines and property values.

Internationally, a decade-long study across nine different states in the US by the Lawrence Berkeley National Research Laboratory found no negative relationship between wind turbines and property values.

The study found "Neither the view of the wind facilities nor the distance of the home to those facilities is found to have any consistent, measurable, and statistically significant effect on home sales prices."

The University of New Hampshire's research on the impact of the Lempster Wind Power Project on Local Residential Property Values from January 2012 found no evidence that the project had an impact on property values in the region. The study also said "This is consistent with the near unanimous findings of other studies – based their analysis on arms-length property sales transactions – that have found no conclusive evidence of widespread, statistically significant changes in property values resulting from wind power projects."

A recent comprehensive study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy looked at over 50,000 home sales across 27 counties (including around 1,200 homes within 1 mile of a turbine) and included accounted for other contributing factors like confounding home-value and spatial dependence in the data. The study found no statistical evidence that home values near turbines were affected in the post-construction or post-announcement/pre-construction periods¹.

No Link with Reduced Property Values

Many robust studies by independent organisations around the world have failed to find any link between wind turbines and declining property values.

A report on community acceptance of rural wind farms by the CSIRO's Science into Society found that rural landowners with wind farms on their properties stood to gain from such benefits. One landowner said having a wind farm on their property could provide "a drought-proofing income stream for my property... Few farmers in this region could survive without off-farm income". Another said wind farms helped fund land protection: "[With] a bit of money to put turbines on my property – that won't devalue my property – we'll be able to run less animals and put less pressure on the land and look after it a whole lot better, get the biodiversity happening as it should – that's a good outcome for me."

For properties without wind turbines, but in the line of sight of turbines, statistical evidence supports that property values do not perform worse than properties in comparable regions without wind turbines. In many cases, property values have actually gone up faster than values in the comparable regions.

A study conducted by the NSW Department of Lands looked at properties located near eight wind farms and found no evidence that wind turbines caused property values to drop. The report found that wind farms "Do not appear to have negatively affected property values in most cases". The report also found that "No reductions in sale price were evident for rural properties or residential properties located in nearby townships with views of the wind farm."²



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Fire Management

Low Risk of Fire

The risk of fire at wind farms is very low due to:

- Flammable elements are located high above the ground.
- Each turbine situated next to a cleared construction pad reducing the available fuel load.
- Lightning protection devices are installed on every turbine also reducing ground strikes.

Monitoring systems installed in the WTGs detect temperature increases and will automatically slow or shut down if the WTG if the temperature or wind speed exceeds an assigned threshold.



No Special Hazards

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) doesn't consider wind farms pose any special hazards when it comes to fighting fires from the air. A position paper prepared by the RFS concluded that a wind farm located in the vicinity of, or on, a fire ground will not prevent the NSW RFS from fighting the fire. In the event of a bushfire, aerial fire-bombing operations in the vicinity of WTGs may be restricted however aircraft alone do not extinguish fires. The most effective way to manage a fire is the use of ground-based resources closely integrated with aircraft when required.

Pilots view WTGs no different to other tall structures and hazards such as power lines, transmission towers, radio masts, mountains and valleys. Wind farms are just another piece of infrastructure in the environment that needs to be managed on a risk basis when fighting fires.

Wind turbines are not expected to pose increase risks due to wind turbulence or moving blades. Local wind speeds and direction are already variable across landscapes affected by turbulence from ridge lines, tall trees and buildings. Pilots fly by sight and will not fly into smoke. Wind turbines if not covered by smoke are easily visible in the environment.




Assisting Fire Fighters

The roads constructed as part of the wind farm infrastructure can assist firefighters by:

- Provide access to often inaccessible areas.
- Serve as a control line.
- Create a natural fire break.
- Provide a staging area for firefighters in their cleared areas.

A recent example was in January 2013 at Snowtown SA. The Country Fire Service (CFS) was able to use new and old wind farm access tracks to control a number of lightning induced bushfires. The CFS Captain stated the wind farm made it far easier and safer to defend farms from the new lines of access and defence. Previously the fires would have had to be fought from Council and public roads.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Aviation Impacts

The Project will not infringe any existing Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS), Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Operations (PANS-OPS) surfaces, or any existing clearance planes for Air Traffic Control (ATC) radar/navigation aids. Obstacle lighting is not required for the Project.







The closest Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) certified and registered aerodromes to the proposed wind farm site are Canberra and Goulburn airports, approximately 70 km to the south-southeast and 80 km to the east of the site respectively. The presence and location of eleven agricultural airstrips identified within 5 km of the project have been assessed and considered in the design of the wind farm to ensure turbines do not encroach on any of the existing landing areas. Airstrip use is totally a pilot responsibility the closest turbine to an existing agricultural landing strip is 570m.

WTG locations and heights will be provided to emergency services and local and regional aircraft operators for inclusion in databases and navigational charts of the area.



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Traffic Management




All traffic for the construction of the wind farm is temporary traffic and can be expected during an estimated construction period of 18 to 24 months.

During the operation of the wind farm the traffic will be comparably minor and will be travelling on a road network improved for the over-sized and over-weight construction traffic.

Regional Roads

Hume Highway, Lachlan Valley Way and Boorowa – Rye Park Road

Roads from Port Kembla onto Hume Highway and onward to the Yass area exits are well-sited for the proposed traffic with no modifications required.

The preferred option is to exit Hume Highway at Lachlan Valley Way and travel directly north to Boorowa and bypass the central part of the town via Trucking Yard Road, Dillon Street and Long Street and turning right (east) onto Boorowa – Rye Park Road leading to the local roads near the site.

This route will require some modifications to the Dillon Street / Long Street intersection and the Long Street / Boorowa Road intersection.

Local Roads

Rye Park – Dalton Road, Rye Park Fluffy Road and Maryvale Road

There are a number of access points from the local Council roads to provide entry to the site. These are subject to change depending on the road upgrade requirements.

Trustpower are liaising with Boorowa, Rye Park and Upper Lachlan Shire Councils on their specific requirements for road upgrading as the roads all differ in terms of structural standard.

Minor Roads

Lagoon Creek Road, Rye Park Cemetery Road, Flakney Creek Road, Blakney Creek Road, Don Holt Creek Road, Wargella Road and Blakney Creek South Road

Minor roads will provide access to the various site entry locations. Each of these roads is off a T-intersection with Rye Park – Dalton Road. These intersections will require some shoulder improvements to accommodate the over-sized vehicles. Additionally, reconstruction will be required from Rye Park – Dalton Road to the site and onward into the site as a site access track. It is expected that each of these minor roads that are chosen for access to the site will require upgrading.

After construction Trustpower will conduct a dilapidation survey of all local and minor roads and make every effort to make any necessary repairs, leaving the Council roads in a satisfactory condition.

Total Transport Task and Typical Vehicles

Vehicle	Estimated Trips	Typical Vehicle
Mobile Crane	32	
20t Tanker	14,216	
Tanker (28t)	3,560	
Heavy Rigid Vehicle	1040	
Six Axle Articulated	7,928	
32t truck and dog	33,860	
Low Loader	84	
Extendable Trailer / Dolly (various sizes)	4,320	
Total	65,040	



RYE PARK WINDFARM

Issues Raised During Public Exhibition




Key Issues Raised During Public Exhibition

In no particular order of importance, the following key issues were raised during the public exhibition period from 2 May 2014 – 4 July 2014:

- Visual impact
- Noise impact
- Impact on biodiversity
- Traffic & transport impacts
- Lack of community consultation
- Impact on property values
- Health impacts
- Fire and bush fire management
- Aviation impacts
- Impact on telecommunications

Additional Works Undertaken Since Exhibition

- Further biodiversity & cultural heritage surveys.
- Independent Planning Assessment Report.
- Updating all reports for the final layout.
- Extensive consultation plan and implementation.
- Additional Aviation Impact Reporting.
- Revised Traffic Management Plan and road upgrades.
- Native vegetation offsets.
- Establishment of Community fund and Neighbouring Benefit Scheme.

Amendments to Layout in Response to Issues Raised

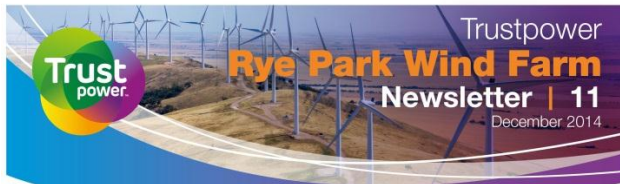
As a result of the consideration of issues raised by the community the following key changes have been made to the layout:

- A reduction in the number of turbines from 126 to 109.
- An alternative 132kV grid connection approximately 15km west of the wind farm site to allow for flexibility in staging and available market for the output.
- An 132kV overhead powerline and connection substation to connect to one of TransGrid's existing 132kV powerlines in the area.



Appendix C – Community Newsletters

- Newsletter 11 – December 2014
- Newsletter 12 – August 2015



The proposed **Rye Park Wind Farm** is a major new wind farm proposal in the **Yass area of NSW**.

The project was initially developed by Epuron in 2008, when the first monitoring mast was installed. **Trustpower Australia Holdings Pty Ltd (Trustpower)** had an option agreement with Epuron to acquire the wind farm upon them securing land and associated approvals for construction. In order to play an increased role in the development of the project and the achievement of these milestones, Trustpower is pleased to confirm we have recently officially acquired the **Rye Park Wind Farm** from Epuron. The Epuron team will continue to have some involvement primarily in securing the planning approvals.

This newsletter provides an update on the **Rye Park Wind Farm project status, next steps and proposed timing** for the project moving forward.



Who is Trustpower

Trustpower Australia Holdings Pty Ltd is one of Australia's leading renewable energy generators and a wholly owned subsidiary of Trustpower Ltd, a publicly listed company on the New Zealand stock exchange. Globally we own and operate 39 hydro generation stations and 8 operating wind farms - 4 in Australia, including Snowtown Stages 1 and 2 and Blaney and Crookwell wind farms in NSW.

Our Snowtown Stage 2 Wind Farm in South Australia recently completed construction 2 ½ months ahead of schedule. The combined Stage 1 and Stage 2 is the second largest project in Australia and the largest wind farm in SA and will provide more than 10% of SA energy needs going forward.

We develop wind farms with the ultimate goal of owning and operating them for the life of the projects. Trustpower began investigating wind farm sites in Australia in 2001. Initial efforts focused on the South Australia region, due to its strong wind resource and proximity to transmission and load centres. Trustpower is also investigating wind generation opportunities in four other Australian states.

Trustpower prides itself on developing and maintaining strong community and stakeholder relationships across its projects.

As we will potentially construct and own & operate the project, we will be focussing on establishing the same relationships at the Rye Park Wind Farm.

We also take a slightly different long term view on our projects and the planning assessment and risk mitigation to reduce uncertainty as we are likely to be part of the community for the lifespan of the project.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Trustpower Project Manager, Michael Head, on the contact details provided below.

For more information please visit the project website

www.ryeparkwf.com.au
 or contact the Project Team on 1800 839 661
 or email ryeparkwindfarm@trustpower.com.au
 Office 26 Greenhill Road Wayville 5034 SA
 Postal GPO Box 1512 Adelaide 5001 SA

www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Project Update

The **Rye Park Wind Farm** project team finalised the **Environmental Assessment (EA)** for the Rye Park Wind Farm which was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure in March 2014.

This milestone was the culmination of site survey works, specialist technical studies and feedback received from our community consultation activities. The EA was notified in accordance with DPI requirements which included advertising in local papers and radio, letters to key stakeholders and local locations to view the EA documents. To assist the community to view the EA and ask the Project Team any questions three Community Open Days were held in May and June 2014. A range of project information was displayed including:

- Copy of the Environmental Assessment and a range of selected photomontages.
- Updated wind farm layout map including identified dwellings out to 3km.
- Updated FAQ sheet responding to questions raised by the community during the open day held in May.
- Fact Sheets addressing key impacts including issues such as aerial agriculture, health, noise, property values, visual, traffic and transport, fire, decommissioning, community benefits and aerial spraying.

Trustpower and Epuron is currently in the process of reviewing and addressing the public and referral agency submissions received to the EA. The wind farm layout and design has evolved over time to take into consideration consultation feedback to date. We are currently considering any further refinements to the layout that may be required to address additional feedback received through the public and referral agency submissions and consulting with the parties involved. We will provide further details on any final layout refinements and additional assessments undertaken that will be included in the response document to be submitted to DPI. We anticipate to be in a position to provide this update in early 2015.



Renewable Energy Target Review

In February 2014 the Federal Government announced the review of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Scheme. Australia's RET is a Federal Government policy designed to ensure that 41,000GWh of Australia's electricity comes from large-scale renewable sources by 2020. The RET has been extremely successful and is expected to save 34.7 million extra tonnes of carbon emissions by 2020, in addition to the more than 22 million tonnes of carbon that have been skipped to date. It has contributed more than 13 per cent of Australia's total energy supply. The RET has also resulted in \$20 billion of investment to date and has created more than 24,000 Australian jobs. Retaining the RET in its current form will in the long term result in savings to electricity bills by up to \$50 by 2020, compared to without it. Renewable energy investment is good news for small towns around Australia that may have missed out on the mining boom or struggled through years of variable farming conditions.

Despite overwhelmingly positive support for the RET, the Coalition's current proposal to reduce the target would decimate the industry. This is a proposal not wanted by the industry or the Labour party. For now the industry is waiting to see if the government can reach bipartisan support for retaining the RET substantially unchanged. If substantial reduction in the RET is adopted it will have time delay implications for getting projects like Rye Park Wind Farm constructed. Trustpower however believes there will be a market of some form for renewables in the future, considering the overwhelming public support and economic / environmental benefits it offers, and we are proceeding full steam ahead with securing development consent for the Rye Park Wind Farm in order for the project to be ready when the market is available.

Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

A Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has been established to:

- To enable the Project Team to formally provide the local community with information on the proposal.
- To enable the community to express and for Project Team to understand any concerns regarding the potential impacts on the proposal.
- To enable the Project Team to consider whether and how to incorporate any suggestions and feedback into the design of the proposal.
- To demonstrate how and where feedback has been incorporated and resulted in amendments to the proposal.
- To formally advise potential community benefits that can be integrated into the proposal.

The CCC has met on seven occasions over the last 2 years and has contributed significantly to the dissemination of project information and provided community feedback. Key topics of interest include the establishment of a community enhancement fund and the use of local access roads during construction. The feedback has been incorporated and considered in the design of the wind farm where possible. The CCC will meet again in the New Year following the finalisation of the Submissions Report and the revised layout. Trustpower will also separately provide information on any further layout refinements or findings from additional assessments to members of the community.

Community Benefit Scheme

Trustpower has community benefit schemes operating on all our projects and has progressed high level discussions with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) on the establishment of a suitable community fund for the Rye Park Wind Farm. We will provide more details on the proposed community fund within the next few months, which will be implemented when construction of the wind farm commences.

Trustpower Acquisition of Green State Power Assets

Trustpower is pleased to announce that it recently acquired around 100MW of additional generation assets from the NSW Government Green State Power portfolio.

The assets include the 58 MW Hume hydro power station on the Murray River, the 27.2 MW Burnjick hydro power station in South West NSW, the 7.2 MW Keppel hydro power station, the 9.9 MW Blaney wind farm and 80% of the 4.2 MW Crookwell wind farm.

Trustpower believes that these assets will perform well within its existing renewable energy portfolio and that it is well experienced in the operation and maintenance of the type of assets being purchased.

www.ryeparkwf.com.au



This newsletter provides an update on the **Rye Park Wind Farm** project status, next steps and proposed timing for the project moving forward.

Project Update

The Rye Park Wind Farm project team finalised the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rye Park Wind Farm which was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in March 2014. The project team is currently working with DPE preparing responses to the submissions received during the public exhibition period.

The wind farm layout and design has been amended to incorporate findings of the site investigations and consideration of issues raised by the community, stakeholders and local Councils through the public exhibition period. As a result the following key changes have been made to the layout:

- A reduction in the number of turbines from 126 to 109.
- An alternative 132kV grid connection approximately 15km west of the wind farm site to allow for flexibility in staging and available market for the output.
- An 132kV overhead powerline and connection substation to connect to one of TransGrid's existing 132kV powerlines in the area.

The locations of a number of turbines, access tracks, powerlines and associated infrastructure have been further refined. Due to the layout changes proposed (including the inclusion of an additional 132kV connection and transmission line section) Trustpower, in consultation with DPE, will re-exhibit the amended layout and associated updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the responses to submissions raised. This will offer the community an opportunity to provide comments on the changes and updated assessments. We anticipate lodging the Revised EIS and responses to submissions raised to date to the DPE in October 2015.

Consultation Update

Trustpower will be undertaking a separate extensive community and stakeholder engagement process over the next few weeks to provide the community more information on the layout changes proposed and the responses to submissions raised, before the lodgement of the Revised EIS.

As part of this process Trustpower will be contacting landholders close to the project directly to offer to meet and provide further information. We will also be holding a Community Information Day during September 2015. The Open Day will provide an opportunity to come and view the changes to the layout, responses to issues raised during the public exhibition and meet the project team. We will confirm these details closer to the date.

The project team welcomes the opportunity to come and meet with you to discuss the project and changes to the layout and any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries.

The Environmental Assessment Process

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the consent authority for the Rye Park Wind Farm.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rye Park Wind Farm was submitted to the NSW DPE in December 2012. This milestone was the culmination of a broad range of development activities undertaken by Epuron including: project design and layout, specialist assessments and stakeholder and community consultation. The EA was prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts and highlight the key benefits associated with the development of the wind farm.

The project was initially to be assessed as a Major Project under Part 3A of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act 1974) however the Planning Minister announced in March 2014 that the project would be assessed under Part 4 of the EP&A Act 1974 as State Significant Development (SSD).

The original EA was placed on public exhibition from Friday 2 May 2014 to Friday 4 July 2014. However as a result of the introduction of the additional 132kV Transmission line and the transition of the project from Part 3A to SSD under the EP&A Act, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has advised that a Revised EIA is to be prepared including the responses to submissions to the original EA. The Revised EIA will be re-exhibited for public comment. It is anticipated that the Revised EA will be exhibited late 2015.

For more information please visit the project website
www.ryeparkwf.com.au
 or contact the Project Team on 1800 839 661
 or email ryeparkwindfarm@trustpower.com.au
 Office 26 Greenhill Road Wayville 5034 SA
 Postal GPO Box 1512 Adelaide 5001 SA

www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Renewable Energy Update

Renewable Energy Target Review

In February 2014 the Federal Government announced the review of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Scheme. Australia's RET is a Federal Government policy designed to ensure that at least 41,000 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020.

The RET review is now complete with a final reduced target agreed by both the Coalition and Labor of 33,000 GWh. This compromise deal follows 15 months of lost investment confidence caused by the review of the policy.

The 33,000 GWh target will require approximately 6,000 MW of new renewable energy capacity to be built by 2020 which is expected to create more than \$40.4 billion worth of investment and more than 15,200 jobs. The target is enough electricity to power the equivalent of at least 5 million average homes for a year.

While Trustpower is disappointed by the level of the reduction of the target, an agreement on the RET now opens the way to unlock massive investment and job opportunities in Australia. We will continue to actively pursue development consent and marketing opportunities for the Rye Park Wind Farm.

Clean Energy Finance Corporation Announcement

The Federal Government recently announced a proposed change to the mandate for Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to exclude rooftop solar and wind farms.

We are disappointed that just after there was bipartisan support of a new RET target that the Government has decided to further discourage the investment in a specific renewable energy source. However, Trustpower has not had to rely on CEFC funding for its existing projects and was not contemplating using this form of funding for the Rye Park Wind Farm and we do not see the announcement having any impact on this project or our other projects.

Senate Inquiry

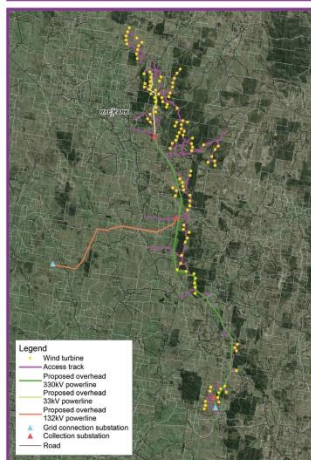
The Select Committee on Wind Turbines has recently released their final report into wind farms which has not added anything new to what is now a long list of other recent inquiries into wind power.

Despite any scientific justification, the report has however made a series of recommendations that, if adopted, could jeopardize the future of renewable energy in Australia.

Trustpower has no objection to ongoing scrutiny of its wind energy projects, provided that scrutiny is objective and based on properly researched scientific and other evidence.

We remain confident that any future decisions related to Trustpower, or any other's wind farms and other renewable energy projects, will be based on the prudent assessment of evidence related to the economic and environmental benefits of those projects, compared to other generation technologies.

Rye Park Wind Farm Key Project Elements Map as of August 2015



Community and Neighbour Benefit Scheme

Some of the key issues consistently raised through the community and stakeholder engagement regarding the community fund included the need for further clarity on the fund structure and the fact that only host landowners typically receive any direct financial benefits from the wind farm and that they should be eligible for a portion of the community fund payments. In response to these issues raised and in recognition that the most impacted community members are typically the immediate neighbours to the project, Trustpower is proposing to allocate a portion of the overall Community & Neighbour Benefit Scheme to voluntary direct Neighbour Benefit payments.

Trustpower proposes to offer neighbours living within 2km of a constructed turbine a Neighbour Benefit Agreement. The agreement will be completely voluntary and offered to neighbours with an existing dwelling within 2km of a turbine.

A separate annual Community Benefit Fund will still be implemented as part of the overall Community & Neighbour Benefit Scheme. It is proposed that this Community Benefit Fund will be administered by a committee with representatives from the local community (host landholders, non-host landholders), local Councils and the wind farm owner.

Trustpower will be consulting with the Councils and general community over the next few weeks on the breakdown and quantum of the respective Neighbour Benefit and wider Community Benefit portions of the overall Community & Neighbour Benefit Scheme.

The Project Team will be in contact with landowners that are eligible for the voluntary Neighbouring Benefit Agreement in the next few weeks however if you would like further information on the Scheme please contact a member of the Project Team.

Photographs used are from Trustpower's Showtown Wind Farm in South Australia.

www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Appendix D – CCC Agenda and Minutes



Better together.

Trustpower Limited

Subject: Rye Park Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Wednesday 26th August 2015, 7pm.

Location: Yass Soldiers Memorial Hall

Present:

Nick Carmody (Chair); James Wheelwright (Upper Lachlan Shire Council); Michael Head (Trustpower); Nicola Foran (Trustpower); Chris Mackenzie-Davey (Office of Environment and Heritage); Greg Medway; Graeme Privet; Bert Barrass; Jim Field; Andrew Field.

Apologies:

Malcolm Day; Chris & Jenny Halley; (Note no representatives from Yass or Boorowa Councils).

Administration:

Minutes of last meeting (30 September 2014) at Rye Park Hall were tabled.

Chris and Jenny Halley have requested to no longer be members of the CCC. Three observers present, Chris Mackenzie Davey, Andrew Field, Jim Field.

Meeting Discussions and Notes:

Introductions and background to Trustpower given.

Project update:

Trustpower took over in December 2014, and are now the official proponent of the Rye Park Wind Farm.

A number of changes have been made to the wind farm layout, including the removal of 17 turbines. This was done for environmental and noise management reasons. There are now 109 wind turbines. A new 132 kV transmission line has been introduced, which would allow the wind farm to be built in two stages.

The applications will be re-submitted at the end of October and will go back out for public exhibition.



Better together.

Trustpower Limited

Trustpower are undertaking community engagement, including meeting with landowners within 2-3km of the wind farm, hosting a community information day (date tbc), and re-invigorating the CCC.

There is an 1800 number that people can ring and leave a message, and Trustpower staff will call them back. We are keeping records of all community engagement in a consultation management data base.

Q: Turbine locations, and which were removed?

Approximately 25 dwellings within 2km. "There will be dwellings within 2km"

Q: was the 2km buffer set on a 1.5MW turbine?

No, set on the presence of the tower, regardless of the size of the turbine. Discussion on the 2km ' buffer/setback, and the lack of scientific data to justify it. There is a 2km requirement in NSW Draft Guidelines – not ratified. Noted that the Victorian government has just removed the requirement to have agreement with neighboring landowners within 2km of a turbine.

Maps with dwellings within 2km, all dwellings will be noise compliant.

Q: How close to we propose with put a turbine to a house?

Approximately 1.5 km between a turbine and a non-involved dwelling.

Q: How close is the closest turbine to an involved dwelling?

Approximately 1.2km

Q: Will we be lodging the application with all landowner agreements?

Yes, all involved landowners have signed, including for access roads, transmission lines and substations.

Trustpower will be selective in which turbines are built first if it is built in stages. We will need to secure power purchase agreements first. Other factors influencing this include potential federal government changes, and RET changes.

Micro siting: concerns that ability to micro site may be removed from the approval. Trustpower have 'ground trothed location; nut may have to micro site around 50-100m come construction.

Q: Location to School? Existing operational wind farm in close proximity to a school?

Not a Trustpower wind farm, but Taralga is located within a couple kilometers of the local primary school.



Studies? 1.5MW, health studies / noise studies, setbacks to schools.

Maximum tip height 157m

Noise modeling done on a V112 representative 'noisy' turbine, a conservative / worst case scenario approach is taken to doing the noise modelling. The wind farm needs to be noise compliant with all non-involved dwellings.

Q: Independence of experts? All independent, and have to uphold their professional integrity, and abide by their professional institutes code of ethics.

Q: Cost of compliance monitoring? Ultimately Trustpower foots the bill for compliance monitoring. Noise compliance and complaints process.

Traffic Movements:

Reduced the roads needed for heavy haulage / over dimensional loads.

Agreement in principal with the three councils over which roads will be used, upgrading requirements and maintenance etc.

Loads will likely come from Port Kembla, and go through Boorowa and then either left or right at Rye Park.

Concrete plant at Coolalie Road, and one in the north and center of the wind farm (being determined now).

Still to confirm a source of water, but will be construction contractors task to do.

Construction timeframe of around 2 years.

Will be speed limits imposed on construction traffic. Restrictions on times for over dimensional truck movements. No over dimensional loads during school bus hours for example.

Decommissioning:

All above ground infrastructure will be removed at Trustpower's cost. This requirement is built into the Development Approval. Concrete foundations will remain in place, and likely top soiled and grassed over. Volume of concrete slabs? Around 15 x 15 x 3 m in dimensions (depending on site specific conditions).

Efficiencies of wind farms.

Commissioning new turbines at the end of wind farm life vs. removing the infrastructure.

Community Enhancement Fund:

Approximately \$280k will be paid annually into the fund. Available to be spend on any community project within a 10km radius of the wind farm.

Neighboring Benefits Scheme being offered to owners of existing dwellings within 2km of a turbine. This will be for \$2500 annually. Landowner decides whether to accept or not, and if does not accept, then that money goes back into the Community Enhancement Fund.

The scheme is voluntary, Trustpower does not need neighbor's agreements for planning applications.



Better together.

Trustpower Limited

JW: noted that it was commendable the Trustpower are offering this to the neighbors, but felt the funds should not be taken from the C.E.F.

Q: shouldn't the fund be paid per turbine per dwelling. (i.e. a dwelling should be paid per the number of turbines).

CMD: Supports the Neighboring Benefits Scheme but recognizes that it is not the perfect model.

Property value discussion.

Trustpower to type up minutes and circulate.

Trustpower to prepare agenda for next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 30 September at 7pm.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.



Better together.

Rye Park Wind Farm – Community Consultative Meeting

Agenda – 14th October 2015

'Kitchen Room' Yass Memorial Hall 7.00pm

Trustpower Australia
Holdings Pty Ltd
454:15 121 038 321

Postal Address:
Adelaide Office
GPO Box 1512
Adelaide
South Australia 5001

Adelaide
Office Address
20 Greenhill Road
Meyville
South Australia 5034

T +61 (8) 8173 7200
trustpower.co.nz

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes from last meeting.
3. Introduction of Graeme Purches – Community Relations Manager, Trustpower New Zealand.
4. Matters Arising.
5. Project Update – Michael Head, Wind Development Officer, Trustpower Australia.
6. Graeme Purches will give a brief presentation on how Trustpower works with Communities in NZ.
Questions welcomed.
7. Road Usage Map update – Michael Head.
8. General Business.
9. Next Meeting.

GHD

Level 4 211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2052 Adelaide SA 5001 Australia

T: 61 8 8111 6600 F: 61 8 8111 6699 E: adlmail@ghd.com

© GHD 2015

This document is and shall remain the property of GHD. The document may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the Terms of Engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

N:\AU\Adelaide\Projects\33\17800\WP\59004.docx

Document Status

Rev No.	Author	Reviewer		Approved for Issue		
		Name	Signature	Name	Signature	Date
A	G Priest	B Porter	<i>Biqht M Porter</i>	B Porter	<i>Biqht M Porter</i>	8/10/2015
B	B Porter					

www.ghd.com

