

# White Rock Wind Farm Consultation Plan

## The Project

The proposed White Rock Wind Farm is to be located on the ranges approximately 25km south west of Glen Innes. The site is in the vicinity of a number of proposed wind farms including the Glen Innes wind farm, Sapphire wind farm and the Ben Lomond wind farm. A number of residences surround the site; these have been identified through reviews of cadastral and topographic mapping and aerial imagery.

## Consultation Objectives

Prospective wind energy projects in NSW are limited to sites with elevated land, good wind speeds, usually in rural areas, and with good transmission line access. Such sites are relatively rare, and often, these sites are located in the vicinity of rural dwellings and in some cases in the vicinity of small to medium sized regional communities. This can cause conflict where local community members feel impacted by the development and yet do not see any direct benefits from the development.

While unfortunate, the limited number of appropriate wind farm sites means that this conflict is often unavoidable and cannot be eliminated by simply moving the wind farm to a different location.

Accordingly, community consultation is not focussed on alternate locations of a wind farm, but rather, on understanding and mitigating the impacts of the wind farm, and on showing and maximising its benefits to the local community.

The objectives of the community consultation are:

- To ensure the community is fully informed about the proposal, its likely impacts, and its likely benefits;
- To ensure that Epuron fully understands the local context for the proposal, including any local impacts that the proposal may have or opportunities that it could provide;
- In that context, to provide multiple opportunities for dialogue in various forms to allow the community to receive information and provide feedback about the proposal;
- To incorporate the feedback into the design of the wind farm where possible;
- To explain where and how this feedback can be and has been incorporated; and,
- To build positive, trust-based relationships with members of the local community.

Epuron's consultation process will also look at how best to maximise the local and regional benefit of the development.

While some will object to the proposal, it is hoped that the community will form the view that their collective interests are best served by assisting Epuron with the identification and mitigation of potential impacts of importance to the community.

Further specific consultation is carried out with key stakeholders including local indigenous representatives, other affected parties (e.g. telecommunications carriers) as well as representatives from the local and relevant state government agencies.

## Consultation approach

In order to achieve the consultation objective Epuron will consult with the community and stakeholders through a variety of means, including:

- Newsletters
- Media opportunities
- Community Open House in the local area
- Letters to identified residents within 5km of the proposed site
- Follow up phone calls and/or individual meetings to concerned landowners
- Briefing the Glen Innes Severn Shire Council and the Inverell Shire Council



*Planning Focus Meeting – Conroy’s Gap Wind Farm*

The Community Open House forum will seek to inform the community about the wind farm as well as seeking individual and community views on issues that the community perceives as being important. A summary of the project and the expected impacts will be presented, with professional and expert staff available to respond to queries and better understand issues raised. Follow up phone calls, emails, letters can progress individual issues raised.

Epuron will consult throughout the planning process with government agencies and statutory stakeholders as well as community groups and individuals.

## Proposed Timeline

The following table summarises how Epuron aims to achieve its consultation objectives and describes the activities that are proposed along with an approximate timing with regards to the stage of the project.

Table 1 – Proposed consultation activities

<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Proposed Activity</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Concept Design	Aug – Sep 2010	Neighbour consultation within 2km (via face-to-face meetings and phone calls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Introduce Epuron and the White Rock project to the local community.</li> <li>• To inform the local community about the project including the criteria and for selecting the site.</li> <li>• To inform the local community about the development process and the various environmental assessments that may take place on or near their residence.</li> <li>• To understand local concerns about the project at an early stage in the design of the project.</li> </ul>
Concept Design	Aug – Sep 2010	Neighbour consultation within 5km (via face-to-face meetings, phone calls and letters.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce Epuron and the White Rock project to the wider community.</li> <li>• To inform the community about the project including the criteria and for selecting the site.</li> <li>• To inform the community about when consultation opportunities will be occurring and to discuss the development process</li> <li>• To understand local concerns about the project at an early stage in the design of the project.</li> </ul>
Pre-DA submission	Oct 2010	Newsletters (Open House)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform the community about the upcoming Open House</li> <li>• To describe how community feedback can be implemented in the design of the project.</li> </ul>

<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Proposed Activity</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Pre-DA submission	Nov 2010	Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To engage the community in one-on-one discussions about the project in a 'drop in' style event.</li> <li>• To inform the community about the progress of the project and display any draft results, photographs and assessment reports available for public review.</li> <li>• To receive feedback on the design and environmental assessment approach for the project.</li> <li>• To incorporate suggestions where practical into the design of the Wind Farm.</li> </ul>
Pre-DA submission	Nov 2010	Follow up phone calls/meetings, residential visual assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To address concerns raised at the Open House.</li> <li>• To provide more detailed information regarding the individual concerns and receive feedback regarding possible solutions to the issue raised.</li> </ul>
Pre-DA submission	Nov 2010	Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform the community that the Environmental Assessment has been submitted and provide an estimate as to when public viewing may occur.</li> </ul>
DA submission	Feb 2011	Newsletter, media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To inform the community that the Environmental Assessment will be available for review and to invite submissions on the proposal.</li> </ul>