

Doughboy Wind Farm

Project Update

December 2020



Location



Register for updates

We are keen to keep members of the local community and other interested parties up to date on project developments and opportunities to provide feedback.

If you would like to receive project news via email please register at epuron.com.au/mailling-list-details. If you prefer to receive updates via mail please send the project manager, Grant Alderson (details overleaf), your preferred postal address. We respect your privacy and your details will only be used for this purpose.

You can also provide feedback on the project via the online form available at doughboywindfarm.com.au

Assessment studies underway

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has issued Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the proposed Doughboy Wind Farm, east of Armidale. SEARs outline the key matters for the project's environmental impact statement (EIS), based on the Scoping Report lodged by Epuron in September 2020.

Epuron has appointed NGH Environmental to undertake the independent studies for the EIS, which will include reports for landscape and visual impact, noise, biodiversity, traffic and transport, heritage, waste, and social and economic impacts. Studies and surveys are now underway and will be conducted over the next six months.

What are SEARs?

Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) are issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for all wind farm projects in NSW, considered State significant development. SEARs outline the general and technical assessment requirements for the project's environmental impact statement (EIS).

The planning status and documents for State significant developments are available on the NSW Planning Portal for Major Projects. Search 'Doughboy Wind Farm' at: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects

The New England REZ

Renewable sources of energy - wind, solar, hydro - are the most efficient and cheapest new sources of bulk energy generation, and by the end of 2020 are expected to account for 30% of Australia's total energy mix.

The New England region is rich in natural resources. The NSW Government has identified it as one of the state's key Renewable Energy Zones and is committed to transforming it into a renewable energy hub as part of its plans to transition the state's grid to renewables.

The Doughboy Wind Farm site is located within the NSW Government's New England Renewable Energy Zone.

NSW planning process

The proposed Doughboy Wind Farm is considered State significant development and subject to a rigorous planning process managed by the NSW Government. The key steps and status of the project are listed below.

- 1 Site selection
- 2 Initial concept and consultation
- 3 Scoping Report submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
- 4 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued by DPIE

WE ARE HERE Studies, assessments, finalising site design

- 6 Development application (DA) and EIS lodged with DPIE
- 7 EIS on exhibition for public submissions
- 8 Responses to public submissions
- 9 Assessment by DPIE
- 10 Determination

Contact

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For more information on this project visit doughboywindfarm.com.au

The New England REZ – cont.

In November 2020 the NSW Government passed the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill, supporting its Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap for the state's clean energy transition. The plan aims to attract \$32 billion in investment from the private sector and create 9,000 jobs, to deliver 12 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable capacity by 2030 and put NSW in the top 10 for the lowest industrial electricity prices in the OECD.

For more information on NSW Renewable Energy Zones visit <https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-energy-zones>.

Expressions of interest invited for Community Consultative Committee

Epuron is establishing a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the Doughboy Wind Farm. The CCC will provide an important forum for discussion between the project team and the local community, and help to ensure that local residents and stakeholders are:

- Kept informed of the status of the project, any new initiatives and Epuron's performance
- Consulted on plans and proposed changes
- Able to provide feedback on any issues that may arise.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has appointed David Johnson as independent chair for the Doughboy Wind Farm CCC. David is a qualified geologist and environmental scientist, and an experienced community consultation, mediation and stakeholder liaison practitioner. He spent six years as a Member (Commissioner) of the NSW Government's Planning Assessment Commission (PAC), now the Independent Planning Commission, advising on environmental science and planning, pollution control and waste management, and has worked as an Acting Commissioner in the NSW Land and Environment Court. David is a member of three local planning panels in the Sydney area and is chair of several other CCCs for major projects in regional NSW.

David will oversee selection of CCC members and is now inviting expressions of interest from those who would like to represent the community as a member of the CCC. Interested individuals who live locally or are members of a stakeholder group (community, environment, Aboriginal or industry) are invited to apply.

The role of a committee member is voluntary and members will be expected to:

- Contribute constructively to committee discussions
- Attend approximately four meetings a year
- Share information about the project with the broader community
- Agree to a Code of Conduct for CCC members and sign a Declaration of personal interests.

Doughboy Wind Farm CCC - how to apply

For further information on the Doughboy Wind Farm CCC and to apply contact David Johnson for a nomination form and a copy of the NSW CCC Guideline:

Tel. 0412 160 200 or email johnsons08@iinet.net.au

Nominations must be received by 5pm Monday, 1 February 2021.