

Boulder Creek Wind Farm

Project Update

November 2021



Location



The Boulder Creek Wind Farm site is approximately 40km south-west of Rockhampton, between Mount Morgan and Westwood.

- Up to 60 wind turbines
- Up to 372 megawatts (MW) – enough to power about 215,000 homes.
- Up to 350 jobs during construction and 15-20 ongoing jobs.
- Construction period of approximately 18-24 months, estimated to start end of 2022.

Project granted planning consent

The Queensland Government has granted planning consent for the Boulder Creek Wind Farm in central Queensland following Epuron's lodgment of its development application and Environmental Impact Statement for the project in July 2021.

The consent is for installation of up to 60 wind turbines and associated infrastructure on a site approximately 5 km west of Mount Morgan and 40 km south-west of Rockhampton.

Boulder Creek Wind Farm is set to be the first large scale wind farm development in the Rockhampton region and will be a great opportunity for the area to benefit from Australia's clean energy transition. The 18-24 month construction period is estimated to commence towards the end of 2022 and create up to 350 jobs.

Epuron is also finalising documentation for the proposal's assessment and approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Once this has been accepted by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment it will be placed on public exhibition.

Community information sessions

Information sessions will be held in Westwood and Mount Morgan in December to give interested members of the community an opportunity to learn more about the final proposal and discuss it in more detail with the project team.

Westwood

4-6pm
Wednesday, 8 December
Westwood Hall
4544 Capricorn Highway

Mount Morgan

4-6pm
Thursday, 9 December
Mount Morgan Soldiers Room
18 Morgan Street

Everyone is welcome. For set-up and catering please register, noting which session you would like to attend, by Tuesday 7 December 2021: info@boulder creek wind farm.com.au or (07) 4445 5051.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Epuron recognises the continuing connection that Aboriginal peoples have to their land and acknowledges that the Boulder Creek Wind Farm is Darumbal and Gaangalu Nation Peoples country.

Boulder Creek Wind Farm has Cultural Heritage Management Agreements (CHMA) with each group, one with the Gaangalu Nation People (GNP) for the southern and eastern parts of the site, and one with the Darumbal People for the north-west part of the project.

Darumbal and GNP assisted in site investigations and consultation to ensure the protection of cultural heritage on the site and that respect to traditional values and culture are upheld.



Pictured: representatives of the GNP met in Mount Morgan in March 2021 for a traditional sandal-wood smoking ceremony and to sign a Cultural Heritage and Investigation Management Agreement for Boulder Creek Wind Farm.

Ecology and wildlife

Avoiding and minimising impacts to local flora and fauna is a priority. The application required a comprehensive and thorough ecological assessment in accordance with state guidelines. The project must also be approved by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The ecological assessment work has been done by independent specialists and scientists. It has involved investigating flora and fauna species and habitats through field studies and surveys over multiple seasons, and risk modelling to assess, avoid and mitigate potential impacts to key species.

Construction and traffic

The project will involve comprehensive construction management and traffic management plans, compliant with Queensland Occupational Health & Safety legislation and the local government planning scheme. They will cover all aspects of construction including working hours, noise, traffic and dust management.

Construction can only commence after the detailed engineering design has been completed and preparation may require upgrading the access road. Access tracks for the site would be the standard width of 5.5 m and only wider where required such as for parts, cabling, safety, fire management and erosion control.

Fire safety and management

Wind turbines are designed to mitigate fire risk. They are constructed with fire resistant materials and operated by sophisticated monitoring systems that automatically follow shutdown procedures in response to operational issues, and can be remotely shut down in the event of fire in the area.

Wind turbines also provide a safe path for lightning strikes to the ground and access tracks serve as natural fire breaks.

A comprehensive bushfire management plan for the site will be developed in consultation with the Queensland Rural Fire Service (QFES). QFES would manage firefighting on the site in the same way as any other area, using ground- and air-based resources subject to prevailing weather conditions and avoiding wind turbines in the same manner as any other obstructions such as buildings or power lines.

Questions

Questions and comments are welcome and can be sent to info@boulder creek wind farm.com.au or via the online feedback form on the website: boulder creek wind farm.com.au

Connect

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us on this project. Project updates are available via post or email. For email updates register at epuron.com.au/ mailing-list-details. To receive updates via post email your name, postal address and a request to be added to the mailing list to info@boulder creek wind farm.com.au.

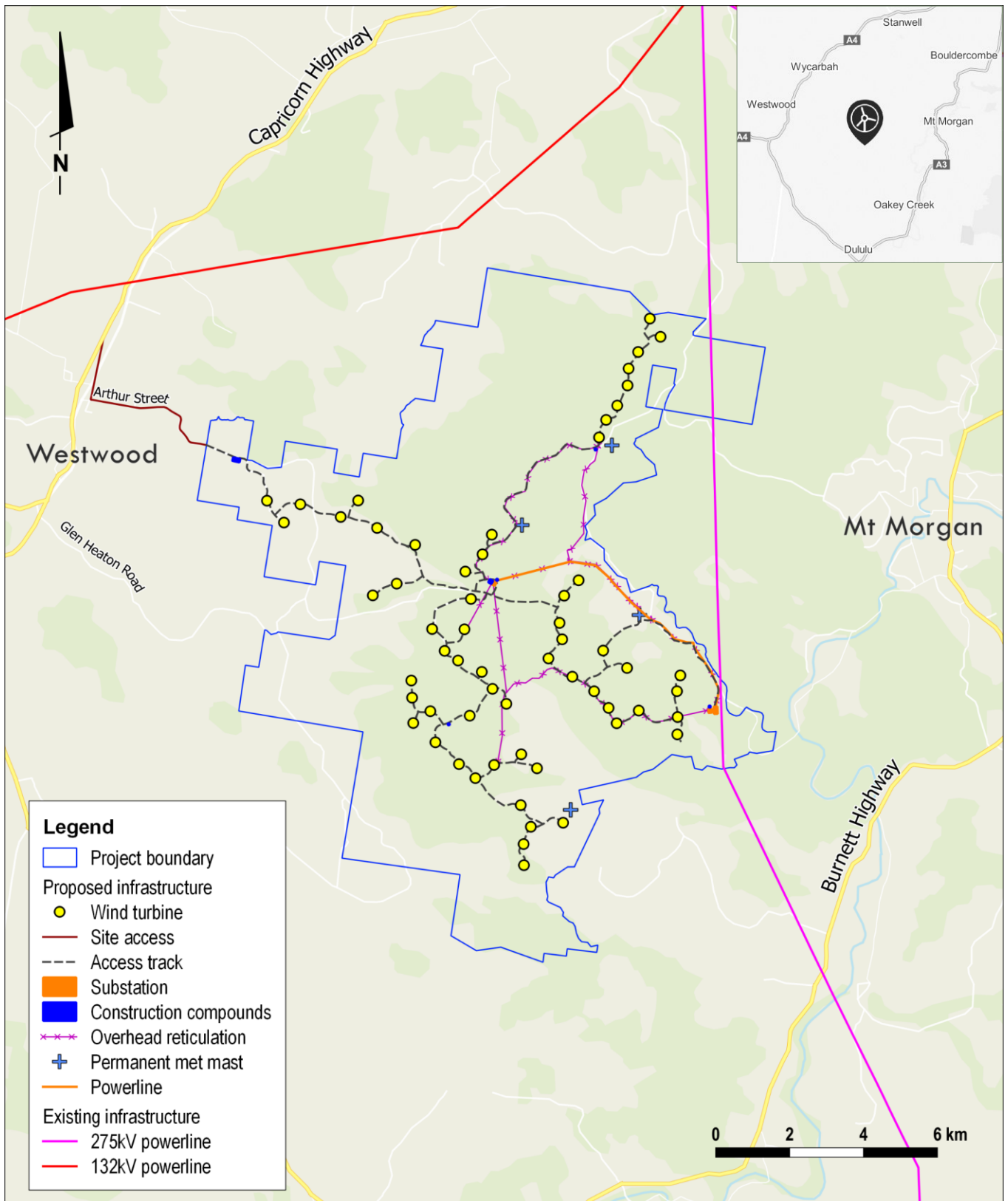
Key benefits

EMPLOYMENT – Boulder Creek Wind Farm is expected to provide up to 350 jobs during the 18-24 month construction period and 15-20 ongoing jobs during operation.

ECONOMIC BOOST - Construction would provide work for Queensland-based contractors and a significant boost to the local economy, especially for surrounding accommodation, retail, service and hospitality businesses. Contractors and businesses can email the project team (see above) to register interest in providing services or facilities.

CLEAN ENERGY - Growth in Queensland's renewable energy capacity will put more downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices and deliver affordable, cleaner, reliable electricity to households and businesses. Boulder Creek Wind Farm would contribute up to 372 megawatts of clean electricity, enough to power 215,000 homes.

Boulder Creek Wind Farm location and site layout



The project area for Boulder Creek Wind Farm is approximately 40km south-west of Rockhampton, between Mount Morgan and Westwood (see inset top right).

The above map shows the proposed design for the project with up to 60 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, connected to the existing 275kV transmission line.

Planning and assessment

Queensland Government

- 1 Site selection, initial concept and preliminary investigations
- 2 Pre-lodgement meeting with State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)
- 3 Studies and assessments (prescribed by SARA State Code 23)
- 4 Application and assessments submitted to SARA
- 5 Assessment

WE ARE HERE

Determination: approved

Commonwealth

- 1 Referral to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for review under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- 2 Decision: controlled action (Referral 2020/8772)
- 3 Request for information (RFI)
- 4 Prepare response

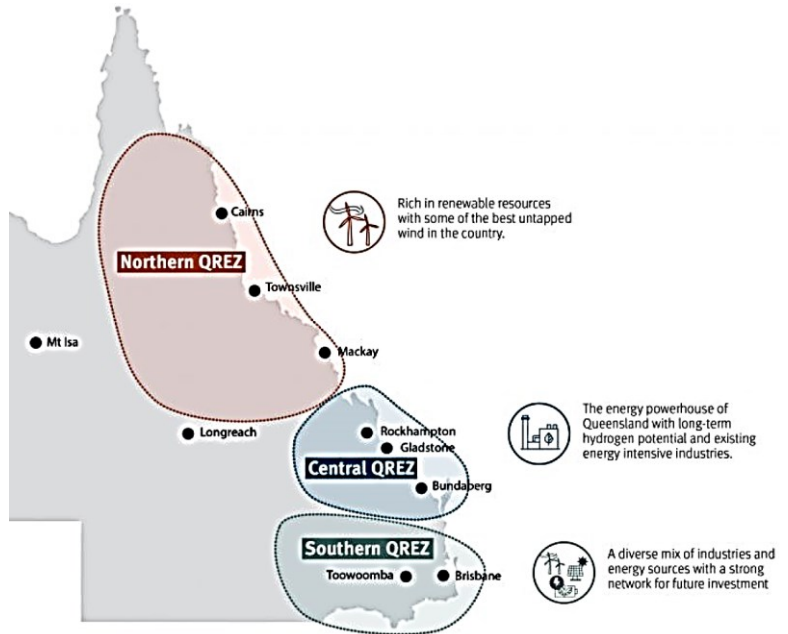
WE ARE HERE

Response submitted

- 6 Response accepted and put on public exhibition
- 7 Determination

Changing energy market

Boulder Creek Wind Farm is located in the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone (QREZ). The QREZ is one of three key zones in Queensland identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as optimal for new projects to support Australia's clean energy transition.



Source: epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/renewable-energy-zones

AEMO forecasts that Australia requires 26-50 Gigawatts (GW) of new grid-scale renewables over the next 20 years and most of that capacity is expected to come from solar and wind (optimal balance of 55/45).

Queensland has a target of 50% renewable energy generation by 2030. The Queensland Government has committed \$145 million to establishing the state's renewable energy zones and \$2 billion investment in energy assets and the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, as a critical part of the state's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.

Central Queensland is uniquely positioned to capitalise on the growth in Australia's renewable energy market. With natural resources and strong grid infrastructure it is well placed to continue as an energy generation hub and take advantage of the clean energy transition.

About Epuron

Epuron is one of Australia's longest operating and most experienced renewable energy companies. It specialises in the design of utility-scale wind and solar energy facilities and guiding those projects through the planning and assessment process. Epuron has been a leader in the growth of Australia's wind energy generation capacity over the past two decades. For more information visit epuron.com.au

More information

Website: boulder creek wind farm.com.au or scan QR code

Newsletter updates: epuron.com.au/mailling-list-details

Project contact: Paul Stangroom, Development Director

Email: info@boulder creek wind farm.com.au

