

Rye Park *Wind Farm*

PROJECT CONSULTATION PLAN | MARCH 2012

EPURON

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Prepared By:

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Forward

Epuron is serious about developing high quality wind farms and solar energy projects which maximise the benefits available from these projects, while ensuring their commercial viability.

The benefits of renewable energy projects are clear:

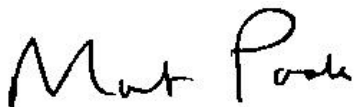
- ▶ *Environmental benefits including greenhouse gas reduction*
- ▶ *Clean delivery of electricity without pollution or water usage*
- ▶ *Regional economic benefits including jobs and regional investment*
- ▶ *Social benefits including local infrastructure improvements and community benefits*

Epuron is striving to ensure that the Rye Park Wind Farm is developed and built in a manner which recognises the importance of an ongoing, long term relationship with the local community.

This consultation plan outlines the basis on which Epuron has and will continue to engage with the Rye Park community, including the consultation purpose, approach, tools, and opportunities for input.

We look forward to engaging with you in relation to the Rye Park Wind Farm.

Sincerely,



Martin Poole
Executive Director



Andrew Durrant
Executive Director

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1 Plan Overview

1.1 Introduction

This Project Consultation Plan has been prepared to guide stakeholder engagement activity for the proposed Rye Park Wind Farm during the development phase (up to project approval). This plan reflects the corporate requirements set out in Epuron's Community Consultation Framework and the Director Generals Requirements issued for the project by the NSW Department of Planning.

This Project Consultation Plan is dynamic and will be periodically updated as required during the course of the development phase and community engagement activity.

1.2 The Project

The proposed Rye Park Wind Farm is to be located to the north of Yass and east of Boorowa, NSW, on the edge of the Southern Tablelands and the South West Slopes in the vicinity of the rural township of Rye Park. It is approximately 250km south west of Sydney and is located on freehold and leasehold land within and adjacent to agricultural areas, predominantly used for grazing sheep and cattle.

The proposed site is located across three Local Government Areas (LGAs); Boorowa Shire Council, Yass Valley Shire Council and the Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

Townships in the vicinity of the project are:

Locality / Township / Population Centre	Proximity	Population (approx.)	Local Government Area
Rye Park	Approximately 3km west from the nearest wind turbine	368 people	Boorowa Shire Council
Blakney Creek	Approximately 4km east from the nearest wind turbine	25 people	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Dalton	Approximately 13km east from the nearest wind turbine	100 people	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Boorowa	Approximately 17km north west from the nearest wind turbine	1342 people	Boorowa Shire Council
Yass	Approximately 12km south from the nearest wind turbine	5334 people	Yass Valley Shire Council

The project site is in the region of other proposed wind farms including the Rugby wind farm to the north (currently under development by Windlab) and the Bango wind farm to the west (currently under development by Wind Prospect).

1.3 Community Consultation Framework

This Project Consultation Plan is developed on the basis of Epuron's Consultation Framework, and has been developed to reflect the needs and characteristics of the Rye Park Wind Farm and its specific stakeholders. Accordingly, this Project Consultation Plan should be read with reference to Epuron's Consultation Framework.

Epuron has developed its Community Consultation Framework to outline the objectives and mechanisms it will use in engaging with key stakeholders and the local community in relation to its projects.

In preparing its Community Consultation Framework, Epuron has taken into consideration the draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms dated December 2011. While these draft guidelines are not yet in force, they provide a useful reference source in preparing Epuron's consultation plans.

1.4 Project Consultation Objectives

Epuron's Consultation Framework outlines the following project consultation objectives:

- ▶ To minimise undue community concern in relation to each proposal, particularly at an early stage where little information on a project is known;
- ▶ To ensure the community and other stakeholders are fully informed and aware of 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;
- ▶ To incorporate the suggestions and feedback into the design of the wind farm where possible;
- ▶ To explain where and how this feedback can be and has been incorporated; and,
- ▶ 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.

In addition to these general objectives, in relation to the Rye Park Wind Farm Epuron's consultation process will also investigate how best to maximise the local and regional benefit of the development. Specifically, Epuron is looking for feedback as to how a Community Fund might be established for the project, and what kind of community support is required in the vicinity of the project.

1.5 Scope of this Consultation Plan

Epuron's Consultation Framework identifies the following development phases for the project during its lifecycle:

- Phase 1 – Project Awareness
- Phase 2 – Project Investigations
- Phase 3 – Project Development & Approvals
- Phase 4 – Post Development Approval and Pre Construction
- Phase 5 – Construction & Commissioning
- Phase 6 – Operations & Decommissioning

This plan outlines those consultation activities proposed during the pre-approval development phases of the project which are phases 1 through 3 as described above.

A further consultation plan will be developed as the project enters Phase 4 of its development.

2 Key Stakeholders

2.1 Overview

This section of the Project Consultation Plan identifies the key stakeholders with whom Epuron will engage through the development of the proposal. Given the early stage of development of the proposal, this list is unlikely to be exhaustive at this stage. Additional stakeholders are likely to be identified and added to the plan through the Project Investigation and Project Development & Approvals phases of the development.

2.2 Residents and Landowners

A number of existing dwellings are situated around the site or local area. The location and (in many cases) ownership of these dwellings have generally been identified through reviews of cadastral data, topographic mapping, aerial imagery, local information sources, internet research and visiting properties.

Ownership of all land within 2km of a proposed wind turbine has been confirmed through property searches on the NSW government registers.

Epuron distinguishes landowners into the following groups based on whether or not they are involved with the project, and how distant from the project their residence or dwelling is located:

- Involved landowners
- Adjacent neighbours (within 2km from wind turbine)
- Nearby neighbours (2 – 5km from wind turbine)
- Distant neighbours (5 – 15km from wind turbine)
- General public (>15km from wind turbine)

2.3 Community and Community Groups

The following local community groups have been identified as potentially representing key stakeholders. Additional stakeholder groups are likely to be identified through the ongoing consultation process.

Name	Website / Contact
Boorowa Community Landcare Group	6385 1018
Boorowa Country Women's Association	6385 3723
Boorowa District Landscape Guardians	http://www.bdlg.org/ or 6385 3217
Rural Fire Service (Upper Lachlan)	6851 1541 or 1800 679 737
Yass Chamber of Commerce	6226 1525
Boorowa Rotary Club	6385 3594

2.4 Local Media

The following local media outlets have been identified as providing an important communication channel to key stakeholders, primarily due to their ability to disseminate information in the vicinity of the project.

Name	Website / Contact
Yass Tribune	yasstribune.com.au or 6226 1622
Boorowa News	boorowanewsonline.com.au or 6385 3020
Yass FM Radio	6226 4299

2.5 Local Government

Key officers and staff of the Local Government Authorities have been identified as follows.

Position	Yass Valley Council	Boorowa Shire Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Mayor	Nic Carmody	Wendy Tuckerman	John Shaw
Councillors	Judith Williams Cecil Burgess Geoff Frost Bill Luchetti Chris McHarg Allan McGrath Michael McManus David Needham	Elisabeth Webster Robert Gledhill Christopher Corcoran Julie Poplin Grant Cotter Neil Gorham David Evans Angus Clements	Michael Mayoh Paul Culhane Michael Coley Malcolm Barlow Brian McCormack Sandra Bill Brian Maloney James Wheelwright
General Manager	David Rowe	Therese Manns	John Bell
Executive staff	Sheri Norton Paul De Szell Simon Cassidy	Anthony McMahan K Monaghan	Phillip Newham Tina Dodson Andrew Croke

2.6 State and Federal Members and Ministers

Key elected State and Federal representatives have been identified as follows.

Jurisdiction	Position	Member / Minister (Party)
State	Member for Burrinjuck	The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Small Business
State	Minister for Resources and Energy	The Hon. Chris Hartcher MP
State	Minister for Planning and Infrastructure	The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
State	Minister for the Environment	The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Federal	Member for Hume	Mr Alby Schultz MP
Federal	Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	The Hon. Greg Combet AM MP
Federal	Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	The Hon. Tony Burke MP

2.7 State and Federal Government Agencies

Relevant State and Federal agencies have been identified as follows.

Jurisdiction	Agency	Responsibility
State	Office of Environment and Heritage	Aboriginal cultural and European heritage Threatened species Biodiversity offsets Renewable Energy Precincts
State	Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Administration of approvals under Environmental, Planning and Assessment Act
State	Planning Assessment Commission	Determination of Planning Consent
State	Department of Primary Industries	Crown land and agricultural issues
State	Rural Fire Service	Bushfire safety
State	Relevant Council	Public Roads
State	Transgrid	Transmission connections
Federal	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	Administration of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC)
Federal	Airservices Australia	Canberra – 02 6268 4111 or 1800 026 147
Federal	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	Canberra – 02 6217 1449 or 131 757
Federal	RAAF	Canberra – 1300 333 362

2.8 Additional Stakeholders

The following additional stakeholders have been identified as key stakeholders of the project.

Name	Website / Contact
Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA)	Canberra - 02 6241 2100
Telecommunications Operators	Multiple carriers

3 Schedule of Consultation Activities

3.1 Overview

This section of the Project Consultation Plan identifies the key stakeholders with whom Epuron will engage including anticipated timing.

Proposed Consultation Activity	Timing	Consultation Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<i>Phase 1 – Project Awareness</i>			
Community Information Workshop	November 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce Epuron and the proposed wind farm project ▪ Provide accurate information about wind farms ▪ Seek feedback as to key issues from the community ▪ Build trust with the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved Landowners ▪ Invited community stakeholders
Project Newsletters	6 monthly / as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce Epuron and proposed project to the local community and key stakeholders ▪ Provide clear and accurate background information in relation to Epuron and wind farms ▪ Open communications and build trust within the local community ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved stakeholders on mailing list ▪ General public via local information centres
Epuron Website	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide information about Epuron to public over the internet ▪ Seek feedback and enquiries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stakeholders ▪ General public
<i>Phase 2 – Project Investigations</i>			
Project Newsletters	6 monthly / as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development progress and timing ▪ Provide preliminary details on the wind farm proposal ▪ Outline benefits of wind farms to local communities ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved stakeholders on mailing list ▪ General public via local information centres
Epuron / Website	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide information about Epuron to public over the internet ▪ Seek feedback and enquiries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stakeholders ▪ General public
<i>Phase 3 – Project Development & Approvals</i>			
Project Newsletters	quarterly / as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development status ▪ Explain program of Development Approval process and expert studies to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved stakeholders on mailing list ▪ General public via local information

Proposed Consultation Activity	Timing	Consultation Objectives	Key Stakeholders
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be undertaken ▪ Outline community consultation program and key areas of interest ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> centres ▪ Government agencies
Consult with neighbours where dwelling within 2km of proposed wind turbines (via face-to-face meetings and phone calls)	January / February 2012 ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To open communications with near neighbours to the proposed development (dwellings within 2km of proposed wind turbine) ▪ To explain potential impacts and benefits of the proposed wind farm ▪ Discuss and arrange further assessment (if required) ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uninvolved neighbours
Newsletter 4	March / April 2012 Initial site concept design and layout available for comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development status ▪ Release of preliminary layout ▪ Details on key areas of concern and interest from community consultation program ▪ Display current project information and preliminary layout for discussion and feedback purposes ▪ Meet and discuss areas of interest with stakeholders ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved neighbours ▪ Community stakeholders ▪ General invitation to interested parties
Establish Community Consultation Committee	April / May 2012 Call for CCC member nominations and establish on commencement of Phase 3 and meetings to be held quarterly or as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enable Epuron to formally provide the local community with information about the proposal. ▪ To enable the community to express and Epuron to understand any concerns in relation to potential impacts of the proposal. ▪ To enable Epuron to consider whether and how to incorporate any suggestions and feedback into the design of the proposal. ▪ To demonstrate how the feedback has been considered in the design process and where applicable show how the feedback has resulted in amendments to the design of the wind farm; and, ▪ To formally recommend to Epuron options that it may consider to provide additional community benefits resulting from the proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Chairman ▪ Local Councils ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved landowners ▪ Community groups ▪ Proponent

Proposed Consultation Activity	Timing	Consultation Objectives	Key Stakeholders
Community Consultation Committee meeting 1	May / June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update current project information and preliminary layout for discussion and feedback purposes ▪ Discuss areas of interest and concern from CCC members ▪ Seek feedback and incorporation of ideas into proposal where possible ▪ Updated information available for wider circulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Chairman ▪ Local Councils ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved landowners ▪ Community groups ▪ Proponent
Newsletter 5 and Community Open House 1	June / July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development status ▪ Outline preliminary results from expert studies where completed ▪ Update on changes to layout incorporating feedback ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved neighbours ▪ Community stakeholders ▪ General invitation to interested parties
Newsletter 6 and Community Open House 2	September / October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development status and issues ▪ Outline results from expert studies where completed ▪ Update on changes to layout incorporating feedback ▪ Provide accurate information and seek feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved neighbours ▪ Community stakeholders ▪ General invitation to interested parties
Community Consultation Committee meeting 2	September / October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on development status and activity ▪ Update on layout and consultation feedback mechanism ▪ Outline results from expert studies ▪ Seek feedback and incorporation into proposal where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Chairman ▪ Local Councils ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved landowners ▪ Community groups ▪ Proponent
Pre DA submission follow up phone calls and meetings	September / October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To keep the community informed ▪ To describe how community feedback has been implemented in the design of the project where possible ▪ To continue engagement with the community in one-on-one discussions about the project ▪ To inform the community about the progress of the project and display any results, photographs and assessment reports available for public review ▪ To receive feedback on the design and environmental assessment approach for the project ▪ To incorporate suggestions where practical into the design of the Wind Farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved neighbours ▪ Community stakeholders

Proposed Consultation Activity	Timing	Consultation Objectives	Key Stakeholders
Pre DA submission follow up, phone calls and meetings	October / November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To inform the community that the Environmental Assessment is being finalised ready for submission ▪ To address any remaining concerns raised during the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involved landowners ▪ Uninvolved neighbours ▪ Community stakeholders
Pre DA submission - Media	November / December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To inform the community that the Environmental Assessment has been submitted and provide an estimate as to when public viewing may occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public
Pre-DA submission - Media	December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To inform the community that the Environmental Assessment will be available for review and to invite submissions on the proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public

4 Glossary and acronyms

DA	Development Application
DCP	Development Control Plan
DECCW	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DGRs	NSW Department of Planning's Director General's Requirements. The Environmental Assessment report must address issues as directed in the DGRs.
DoP	NSW Department of Planning
EA	Environmental Assessment report, format dictated by the DGRs
EMF	Electromagnetic fields
GWh	gigawatt-hour, equal to 1,000,000 kWh
kV	kilovolt
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
MW	megawatt, equal to 1,000,000 watts
MWh	megawatt-hour, equal to 1,000 kWh
PFM	Planning Focus Meeting
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy

5 Contact Epuron

Consultation is a two-way street

One of the most important elements of consultation to Epuron is to receive feedback, information and advice from key stakeholders in the development of the proposal.

We're listening.....

Project Feedback

In addition to the other mechanisms outlined in this document, Epuron has also established a Feedback survey on the Rye Park Wind Farm website. Feel free to use this form to respond to us, or contact us directly.

Contact Details

Please use the following details to contact Epuron in relation to this project, or to provide feedback in relation to this Project Consultation Plan.

Epuron corporate website:	www.epuron.com.au
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