



# GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM

Community Update – July 2007

## INTRODUCTION

EPURON has commenced investigations into the potential of the Gullen Range and surrounding ridges to support a new Wind Farm. This newsletter outlines the area under study and the opportunities for community participation in relation to the development.

At this stage EPURON is just starting its investigation of the project and does not have exact details on the possible number or location of turbines. This and other more detailed information will follow in updates over the coming months.

## GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM INVESTIGATION

The study area outlined below is a long elevated ridgeline system running approximately 22 kilometres north-south. Wind monitoring has proven this ridge to have some of the highest wind speeds in NSW.

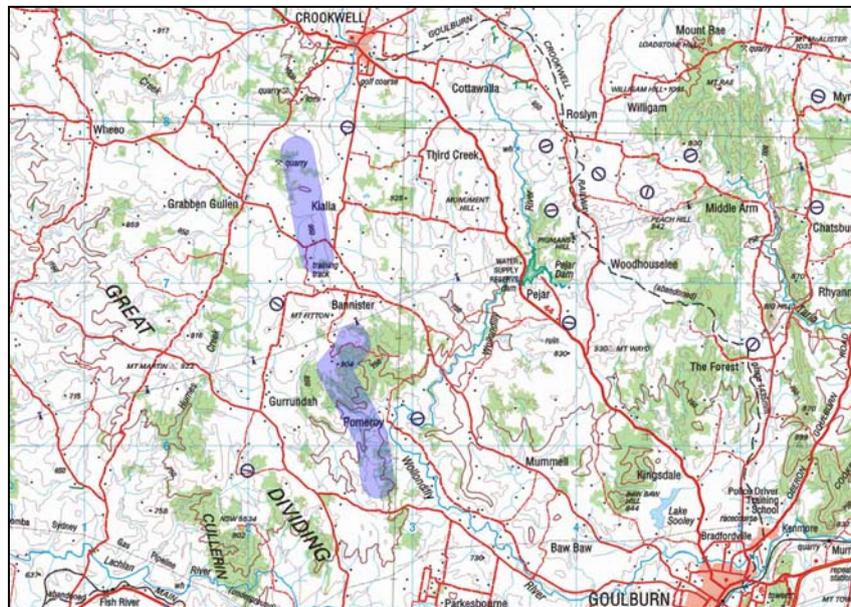


Figure 1 – Project Investigation Area

### ***What is being investigated?***

During the investigation, EPURON will determine the potential for a wind farm in this area.

This investigation will include engagement with the community to exchange information and also understand specific issues in relation to the project area.

A number of specialist reports will be prepared to better understand and mitigate likely project impacts.

EPURON will use this information to help determine the number and location of turbines proposed, as well as the associated infrastructure including roads, electrical connection by underground or overhead powerlines, the substation and control buildings.

The wind farm will use the latest technology wind turbines. It is expected that 40 - 80 wind turbines would be proposed for the area.

### ***Project background***

In 2002, Marubeni Corporation installed wind monitoring towers on the ridgeline at Kialla, Bannister and Gurrundah. This work was well publicised at the time, with at least one community newsletter outlining the proposed Bannister wind farm.

In mid 2006 EPURON purchased the monitoring towers and data primarily to help assess wind speeds at the Cullerinn Range Wind Farm to the south. The wind data recorded on the site also showed there are consistent and high wind speeds that would support a wind farm.

In November 2006, the NSW Government announced a new target to increase the amount of renewable energy supplied in NSW from 10% to 15% of consumption.

This new target will require a major increase in wind energy use and has led to EPURON now assessing the potential of the area to host a new wind farm.



## POTENTIAL BENEFITS

NSW needs more power generation to meet increased customer demand and a higher proportion of renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels.

Wind energy provides:

- Clean, renewable energy, with no water used in generation
- Reduced pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, leading to a better environment for future generations
- Income, employment and investment opportunities in regional NSW

In addition, EPURON would establish a community fund to broaden the benefits of any wind farm across the wider community.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### *What is the process?*

EPURON will undertake investigations into the design of the project and the assessment of impacts from the proposal. Studies will include:

- background noise measurements;
- visual impact assessments;
- flora and fauna assessments including bird and bat studies;
- television and radio interference;
- Aboriginal and other historic heritage; and
- traffic and transport impacts.

The environmental assessments will provide feedback into the design process to ensure impacts are considered and the designs modified accordingly. These studies will be carried out by independent contractors with input sought from the community.

The Environmental Assessment will form part of the development approval process submitted to the Department of Planning (Consent Authority) to be considered under Part 3A (Major Projects) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act.

### *Indicative timeframe*

July – Nov 07	Specialist studies Community Consultation
Nov 07 – Jan 08	Finalise Environmental Assessment Development Application Lodged Public Exhibition and comment
Feb 08 -	Assessment by Dept. of Planning

## HAVING YOUR SAY

### *Input from the Community*

EPURON wishes to engage with the local community to ensure that:

- all relevant issues are considered by EPURON in the assessment of the project; and,
- the community is fully informed as to the development.

We hope to ensure strong local community support for the wind farm. However, we recognize that opinions in relation to wind farms are a very personal matter. The aim of consultation is to determine how to develop the best wind farm possible on this site.

Our aim is to ensure that we identify and where possible mitigate the potential impacts of the wind farm. We have a strong track record of modifying our proposed developments based on community input to specific issues.

### *Community Consultation Opportunities*

EPURON will provide information and consult with the local community, Council and other stakeholders regarding the project. This will include regular newsletters, personal meetings, and an open house forum to gain and contribute information to the project proposal.

At this stage we would appreciate if all people interested in the project would provide their name, address, phone number and email address so we can keep you informed. We will alert the local media as well, so please watch your local papers.

### *Project updates – register your interest*

Write to us: Gullen Range Wind Farm  
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## WHO IS EPURON?

EPURON Pty Ltd (formerly Taurus Energy Pty Ltd) is a NSW based renewable energy company active in the development of wind and solar projects. EPURON has received development consent for three wind energy projects in NSW at Snowy Plains (near Berridale), Cullerin Range (near Breadalbane) and Conroys Gap (near Yass).

EPURON is part of international renewable energy development company EPURON GmbH.