

## Project Update

The Liverpool Range Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was on public exhibition from 1 August to 1 October 2014, resulting in 43 submissions from the public and government agencies. Since then Epuron has proposed changes to the wind farm layout (see overleaf) and has consulted landowners.

Key changes to the layout include the simplification of the overhead powerline across the wind farm site and amendments to the powerline route to the south of the site to further reduce impacts. Additional seasonal environmental survey work is underway across the site and powerline route to assess these changes.

A more detailed Traffic and Transport Study will also be undertaken to assess the impact on the local road network and identify areas that will require upgrades prior to construction commencing.

As a result of interest expressed at the September 2015 meeting of the Community Consultation Committee (CCC), a sub-committee of the CCC conducted a survey of experiences from six operating wind farms in NSW which have community enhancement funds (CEFs). At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21 September 2016 the CCC considered the survey report. A copy will be posted on Epuron's website, for information.

## FAQs during Consultation

Questions that have come up during recent consultation include:

**Q: When will the project go back to the Dept. of Planning?**

A: We are aiming to submit our Response to Submissions Report by the end of the year, pending the results of further studies and consultation.

**Q: When will the wind farm project be determined?**

A: Once the report has been submitted, the Dept. of Planning will review all documentation and make a recommendation to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). The PAC will then make a determination. The PAC process could take between 3 – 6 months.

**Q: How likely is it to be built?**

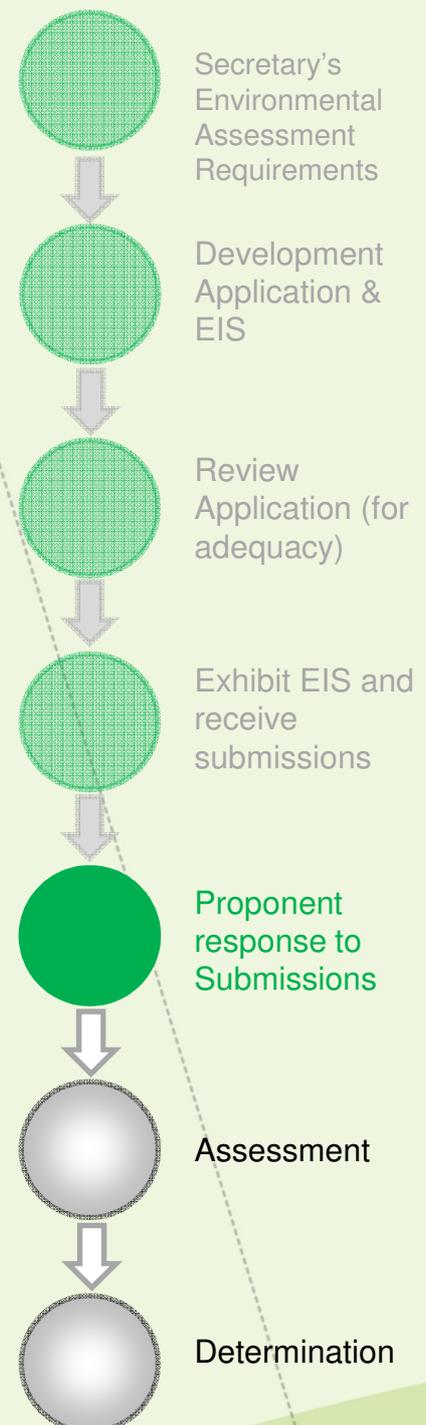
A: If the project receives approval it is very likely to be built. It has an excellent wind resource and is located close to a very strong part of the transmission network (between Wellington and Wollar).

**Q: Road impacts? Community Enhancement Fund?**

A: Please see overleaf.



## NSW Planning Stages



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## Community Enhancement Fund (CEF)

### How will the communities impacted by the wind farm benefit from it?

The development application includes a commitment to establish a Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) and to make annual contributions to it. Grants will be made available from the CEF for projects that benefit the community near the wind farm.

In addition to funding the CEF, the wind farm company will also make annual payments to Warrumbungles and Upper Hunter Shire Councils for on-going road maintenance. These payments will be in addition to upgrading and repairing roads directly impacted by the construction of the wind farm.

The annual CEF and road contributions will be detailed in a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) between Epuron, Warrumbungles Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Taking into account presentations from both Warrumbungles and Upper Hunter Councils (July 2015), the results of the survey conducted by the CCC (see page 1) and recent discussion with the CCC members and councils, Epuron has developed the following proposed structure for the CEF.

### Proposed CEF Structure

- One Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) developed under a VPA with Warrumbungles Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council.
- CEF administered through a Local Government Act 1993 section 355 committee:
  - 2 community members (preferably residents within 20km who have not entered into financial agreements with the wind farm company) from each council area (total 4)
  - 1 Council officer from each area (total 2) (non-voting)
  - 1 Councillor from each area (total 2)
  - 1 wind farm company representative (non-voting)
- Committee to review and recommend grants to the two Councils. When both Councils approve the recommendations, the grants are made.
- Fund administration fees capped.
- Eligibility criteria for funding:
  - Incorporated or registered not-for-profit organisation
  - Degree of benefit within an area approximately 20km from an installed wind turbine, or within 5km of the new powerline near Turill.

### Feedback:

We would like to hear what you think about the proposed structure for the Community Enhancement Fund. Please let us know by any of the following ways:



### Leading the Way:

Australian State  
Renewable Energy Targets

**ACT:** 100%  
by 2020

**South Australia:** 50%  
by 2025

**Victoria:** 40%  
by 2025

**Queensland:** 50%  
by 2030 &  
1 million homes with  
rooftop solar  
(proposed)

**NSW:**  
Committed to Federal  
RET of 20% by 2020

**Western Australia:**  
Committed to Federal  
RET of 20% by 2020



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*Wind Farm Photomontage L10 – from Warrumbungles Way near Coolah, looking East. 6km to nearest turbine*

## NSW Draft Wind Farm Guidelines

### What are they and what do they mean?

In August, the Department of Planning released a Draft Wind Energy Planning Framework. The aim of the framework was to help balance investment with the needs of the community by encouraging early engagement from Proponents.

The Framework consists of six documents including:

- An Assessment Policy
- A Noise Assessment Bulletin
- A Visual Assessment Bulletin
- Environmental Assessment Requirements
- A review of impacts to Property Values by Urbis
- Frequently Asked Questions

The Framework documents can be viewed on the Department of Planning website.

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy>

Epuron provided a submission to the Dept. of Planning in response to the new framework. A summary of the key points is provided below:

- Epuron applauds the intent of providing final workable guidelines for the industry and community.
- NSW, with its high reliance on coal-fired power, has the most to gain from regional jobs and investment from adopting large scale renewable energy for a more diverse energy mix.
- The adoption of the cohesive South Australian EPA 2009 noise guidelines moves NSW towards a standardised assessment requirement.
- The Visual Bulletin creates uncertainty for community members, proponents and decision-makers alike.
- The Visual Bulletin places undue assessment value upon how a wind farm looks rather than on balancing impacts against benefits, purpose and function.

## Gullen Range Wind Farm Open Day



Image from Gullen Range Wind Farm website:

<http://www.gullenrangewindfarm.com/community/community-open-day/>

Gullen Range Wind Farm (between Crookwell and Goulburn) will hold a Community Open Day in October and give people the opportunity to visit the largest operating wind farm in NSW.

**Date:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

**Time:** 11am to 3pm

**Location:** Storriers Lane, Bannister

\*Parking will be limited on site so it is strongly recommended that you register for a spot.

