

EPURON Western Plains Wind Farm

Project Update No 5 | March 2020

The proposed Western Plains Wind Farm consists of up to 13 wind turbines on a freehold cattle grazing property at the very tip of the Stanley peninsula in North West Tasmania 226 km west of Launceston.

This 50 MW wind farm would be 4.5 km from the township of Stanley in the Circular Head Council area and would connect to the Port Latta substation via an underground cable.

The Development Plan and Environment Management Plan will be submitted to the Tasmanian EPA along with the Development Application to Council later this year.

For more information see: www.epuron.com.au/wind/western-plains-wind-farm



Wind Farm Community Fund

The wind farm would bring benefits to the region including local jobs during construction and an increased demand for services such as plant and machinery, food and fuel. The project would also benefit the community through the Western Plains Wind Farm Community Fund.

Many wind farm projects around Australia have established community

funds. This aligns with the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter¹ for Community Developments, to which Epuron is a signatory. One of the commitments is "We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the development, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements".

How would it work?

What are the objectives of the Community Fund?

The fund would provide financial contributions to projects, initiatives and events of interest to the community.

How much funding would be provided and when would it become available?

- ▶ Epuron proposes to put \$2,000 per annum per turbine built into the Western Plains Wind Farm Community Fund
- ▶ This could result in a fund of up to \$26,000 each year for

the life of the wind farm (up to \$650,000 over 25 years) if 13 turbines are built

- ▶ The fund would start at commissioning of the wind farm.

Who would administer the Community Fund?

Options could include:

- ▶ A special committee of Council for this purpose
- ▶ A new organisation to administer the fund

- ▶ Existing community charity or foundation.

What would be the role of the group administering the fund?

Tasks may include the following:

- ▶ Call for applications for funding of projects or activities to benefit the local community
- ▶ Establish selection criteria for evaluation of applications
- ▶ Evaluate funding applications against selection criteria.

¹ <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/best-practice-charter>

What kind of projects could be funded by the Wind Farm Community Fund?

Each community is different and there is a wide range of possibilities for the kinds of projects that could be funded. The Australian Wind Alliance has examples of the types of projects to consider¹, see summary below.

 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	 ENVIRONMENTAL	 EDUCATIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community group support ▶ Sports and recreations upgrades and equipment ▶ School bus and transport provisions ▶ Cultural events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support for environmental programs ▶ Support for wildlife groups ▶ Solar panels or solar hot water for community buildings ▶ Energy efficiency programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ School trips ▶ Wind farm tours ▶ Education programs ▶ Equipment purchases ▶ Facility upgrades

Examples of funded projects in other Wind Farm Community Funds

<p>Three operating wind farms in the North West and North East of Tasmania – Bluff Point 37 turbines, Studland Bay 25 turbines and Musselroe 56 turbines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 5 Student bursaries of up to \$14,000 over five years for Smithton high school students studying at the University of Tasmania ▶ Sponsorship of the State Eventing Championships at the Pony Club Tasmania State Trials hosted by the Circular Head Pony Club ▶ Sponsorship of the Rail Trail Run and Ride between Scottsdale and the Billycock in North East Tasmania ▶ Financial support for the Bridport Innovations, Tassie Scallop Fiesta. 	<p>Cattle Hill Wind Farm, Central Tasmania – 48 turbines, currently being commissioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community Fund of \$120,000 per annum currently being established and local committee members being sought. <p>White Rock Wind Farm, New South Wales – 70 turbines</p> <p>Community Fund has a geographic reach of 50km with preference given to funding projects closest to the wind farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Flood Lighting for the Glen Innes Rugby Union Club ▶ Portable sound system for The Glen Innes Arts Council ▶ Information workshops for the Rural Outreach and Support Services.
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Please tell us what you think about:

- **The Community Fund**
- **How it might be structured**
- **The geographic reach of funds**
- **Anything else you think we should know.**

Send us your contact details and we'll add you to our newsletter database so we can keep you updated as we finalise the wind farm.

Contact us:

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¹ Australian Wind Alliance (2018). *Building Stronger Communities: Wind's growing role in regional Australia*. Melbourne.