

Welcome to our latest project update



Winterbourne
Wind

In this edition, read about:

- What we heard at the Walcha Show in March
- Biodiversity survey results
- How we are working to mitigate impacts from traffic and transport related activities
- Our progress to lodge an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Walcha Show 2022

On 10-11 March, we had the pleasure of hosting a Winterbourne Wind Farm info booth at the Walcha Show for the third year in a row. Thank you to all who made the time to stop by, show support, or ask questions. We presented information on a range of topics and chatted with over 75 community members.

Feedback forms were available and completed by a number of visitors, providing the following insights:

- **88%** of visitors who completed the feedback form identified as local residents or local business owners
- **90%** of visitors who completed the feedback form were highly satisfied with the information presented.

Many visitors appreciated the visual photomontages that demonstrated a realistic view of the proposed project from various public viewpoints.

Several participants indicated that they 'felt reassured and better informed' after the conversations with members of the project team. Valuable feedback was obtained from the community



Visitors at the info booth at the Walcha Show 2022.

across a variety of topics and perspectives. Jobs, tourism, and economic stimulus were often noted as significant project benefits. Community members also positively mentioned the upgrade of local roads, clean energy for future generations, and funding for local projects and initiatives.

All feedback, both positive and negative, is being carefully considered in the preparation of the EIS.

Completion of biodiversity surveys

An extensive biodiversity field survey was completed in January 2022. The field survey included vegetation mapping, flora and fauna surveys, bird utilisation surveys, and bat surveys. In total, biodiversity surveys have included:



12 field investigations between August 2020 and January 2022.



2,633 total field survey hours.



140 Biodiversity Assessment Method plots.



Targeted surveys for **27** fauna species and **23** flora species.



4 Bird Utilisation Surveys.



518 microbat detector nights across **8** locations.

Summary of findings include:



10 Plant Community Types were identified within the proposed project footprint.



6 targeted fauna species were directly or indirectly identified: Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), Greater Glider (*Petauroides Volans*), Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), and Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*).



2 targeted flora species were identified: Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nicholii*) and Bluegrass (*Dicanthium setosum*).

Further information about biodiversity impacts will be made available in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, which will be included in the EIS.

Mitigating the impact of traffic

The purpose of the assessment is to evaluate the capacity of the existing road network to handle the average and peak traffic movements generated during project construction.

The project is expected to generate up to 288 heavy and 270 light vehicle movements per day during peak construction. A movement is a one-way trip. A single vehicle will make two movements (out and back) for any particular trip.

The current traffic on Thunderbolts Way is approximately 1,120 vehicles per day. Traffic generated by the project will likely increase that figure by approximately 280 vehicles per day during peak construction. A third-party traffic expert has concluded that Thunderbolts Way and the rest of the local road network can accommodate project traffic with a good level of service and ample spare capacity.

The majority of vehicle movements for the project will be made by workers travelling to/from the construction site in light vehicles. These movements will typically occur at the beginning and the end of the day.

Five to ten larger, oversized vehicles per day will be required for for approximately 12 months during the peak of project construction to deliver wind turbine components and equipment. These loads will originate from the Port of Newcastle and will travel via Tamworth along the Oxley Highway. While delivery of these components may require drivers to pull to the side road for a minute or two to let the



oversize vehicle pass, this will not significantly impact the travel time to Tamworth. Each oversized vehicle will require state transport permits and will be accompanied by a lead and lag safety escort vehicle. The oversized transports will be timed to arrive outside of school bus hours.

A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction that describes in detail how traffic will be managed to reduce impacts to residents, school buses, commuters, cyclists and other community members.

We will upgrade local roads where necessary prior to construction to the satisfaction of Council and Transport for NSW. The road network utilised by the project will be monitored and maintained to ensure continued safe use by all road users, and any damage attributed to project construction will be rectified.

Environmental Impact Statement

The next project milestone is the submission of the EIS to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. We are working hard to finalise the EIS and lodge the project development application in July or August. Once lodged, the EIS will be placed on exhibition with a public comment period of at least 28 days. We will advertise the exhibition period and the documentation will be available online and in hard copy. We will also host another community open day to provide information about the project and the EIS.

Do you have feedback or questions about the project?

We want to hear from you! We are always keen to hear from anyone with an interest in the project. Please reach out to discuss opportunities to get involved, ask questions or provide feedback for our consideration.

Website: www.winterbournewindfarm.com.au

Project Update: Approximately bi-monthly

CCC Meeting: Approximately quarterly, next meeting on 29 August 2022

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