



Welcome to our latest project update

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- next steps in the planning process
- the Community Benefit Fund

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for providing submissions to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Winterbourne Wind Farm project. DPE received **948** submissions, with **498** supporting submissions, **438** objections, and **12** comments.

Submissions were received from individuals, organisations, Councils and government agencies. We will consider all feedback received and will conduct additional assessment and project design as required to address comments and concerns. Our response to submissions will be documented in a Submissions Report which will be submitted to the DPE.



Next steps in planning process

Step 1

We are now preparing a written response to the issues raised in the submissions, in the form of a Submissions Report which will be submitted to the DPE.

Step 2

In parallel, we will prepare an Amendment Report which documents any changes made to the proposal in response to submissions.

Step 3

The DPE will undertake an assessment of the EIS, the Submissions Report and the Amendment Report, and will prepare a recommendation for the project.

Step 4

The Minister will refer the proposal to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for a determination.

Step 5

We expect a determination in late 2023 or early 2024.

Community Benefit Fund

As detailed in Section 3.12 of the EIS, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) to support local infrastructure, services, projects and programs that will benefit the Walcha and Uralla Shire community.

We will provide:

- **\$1,000,000** as an initial contribution to the CBF at Financial Close of the project, which is the formal commitment of the project to construction;
- **\$750,000 every year** for the life of the project based on a 600 MW development; and
- **\$1,000 every year** as an additional contribution for the life of the project for each MW installed above 600 MW.

The annual contributions to the CBF will be indexed to CPI and will be provided for the operational life of the project through to project decommissioning. We are liaising with Walcha Council and Uralla Shire Council to document the CBF within a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). The VPA will confirm our obligations to make initial and ongoing contributions to the CBF, and the obligations of each local council to administer the CBF.

The broad intention of the CBF is to provide support to the community within each local government area (LGA) by funding, for example:

- local services and infrastructure;
- local charities and non-profit organisations;
- community initiatives, programs and events;
- local businesses; and
- job training and skills development.

We propose that the funds in the CBF will be split 90% to the Walcha community and 10% to the Uralla Shire community, which accords with the relative geographic and infrastructure split of the proposed project within each LGA. Subject to discussions with each council, separate CBFs may be established to administer the funds to be allocated to each LGA.

Community Benefit Fund

Upfront Contribution

\$1,000,000

Annual Contribution

\$750,000
(up to 600 MW)

Potential Additional Contribution

\$1,000/MW
(for every MW built over 600 MW)

Around

\$35 million

to the Community Benefit Fund over 30 years,
based on a 700 MW project

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

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