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Winterbourne Wind

Planning update

WinterbourneWind is currently finalising a Submissions Report for the proposed wind project, which is the next step in the planning process following public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late 2022 and early 2023. The Submissions Report was originally targeted to be lodged by the end of 2023. However we now expect to lodge the report by the end of June 2024, due to requirements for seasonal and targeted biodiversity surveys across the proposed project layout.

The Submissions Report will include responses to submissions from the public and government agencies made during the EIS exhibition period. Where required, the report will identify additional mitigation actions which are proposed to reduce the potential impact. The Submissions Report will include an

updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), an updated Traffic Impact Assessment, updated cultural heritage assessment, and updated noise, visual, aviation and other relevant impact assessments. The Submissions Report is being prepared in accordance with the *State Significant Development Guidelines - Preparing a Submissions Report*. We are also preparing an Amendment Report which will document any changes to the proposed project which have been made to address issues raised and/or improve project outcomes.

Following lodgement of the Submissions Report, DPE will undertake an evaluation of the project and will likely make a recommendation to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination. We would expect the project would then be determined in mid 2025. If the project is approved, we would hope to commence construction by the end of 2025.

Past, current & estimated timeline 2020 2023 2025 **Scoping Report Preparation of** Estimated start of END construction Preliminary information about **Submissions Report** the project and its potential Development of responses Subject to project approval. impacts to support the request to public, council and for the Secretary's Environmental agency submissions, **Assessment Requirements** including preparation of 2028 (SEARs). updated biodiversity, traffic, cultural heritage, noise and Mechanical completion visual assessments. MID **SEARs** of construction Issued by the DPE, providing 2024 SEP direction for the preparation of **WE ARE** an EIS for the project. **Submissions Report/ HERE Amendment Report Start of Commercial** 2021 **END** Expected date for lodging **Operations** MID Ongoing environmental and Submissions Report. In parallel, cultural heritage surveys and an Amendment Report will be community engagement. submitted which documents 2058+ changes made to the proposal 2022 in response to the submissions. **Decommissioning Submission of EIS** At the end of the expected ост EIS prepared to evaluate 2025 operation period, the wind farm potential environmental and will be decommissioned, or social impacts and benefits, in refurbished and operated for a **Assessment and Determination** accordance with the SEARs. further period. MID DPE will consult further with Decommissioning and local councils, State agencies **Public exhibition of EIS** rehabilitation of the wind farm and other authorities on draft EIS available for public review and at the end of its operating life is conditions of consent and comment During the exhibition WinterbourneWind's obligation make a recommendation to period, 924 public submissions and cost as the proponent of the the Independent Planning received (excluding duplicates), wind farm. Commission (IPC).

with 488 submissions in support, 428 objections and 8 comments.



Biodiversity assessment and cultural heritage update

Since the EIS, we have conducted additional biodiversity field surveys and cultural heritage surveys.

The biodiversity field investigations have included vegetation mapping, flora and fauna surveys, hollow-bearing tree surveys, stick-nest surveys, bird utilisation surveys, bat surveys, and frog surveys.

The cultural heritage investigations have included an archaeological investigation at one artefact scatter site, involving archaeologists and members of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). The investigation took place over three days from 11 July to 13 July 2023, and involved excavation of 38 test units across 6 transects. The excavation recorded 96 artefacts across the 38 test units. The project has been designed to avoid impacting this artefact deposit. Additional field surveys were also undertaken in early 2024 across a number of areas where the proposed project layout has changed since the original surveys were conducted in 2020 and 2021.



Additional cultural heritage investigations since the EIS have included excavation of an artefact scatter site with representatives from local indigenous groups.



134 additional person-days of biodiversity field survey work since the EIS.



WinterbourneWind Community Benefit Fund update

WinterbourneWind will establish a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) to support community projects and causes.

We will provide \$1,000,000 to the CBF before construction begins, as well as \$750,000 every year for the life of the project based on a 600 MW development, with payments starting once the project commences commercial operation. We will contribute an extra \$1000 every year as an additional contribution for the life of the project for each MW installed above 600 MW. Our annual payment to the CBF will rise to match the Consumer Price Index each year. We will make these contributions every year until the project is decommissioned.

We have agreed with Walcha Council and Uralla Shire Council to document the CBF within a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). The VPA will document our obligations to make initial and ongoing contributions to the CBF, and the obligation of each local Council to administer the CBF. The funds in the CBF will be split 90% to the Walcha community and 10% to the Uralla Shire community, which matches the relative geographic and infrastructure split of the proposed project within each LGA.

An Advisory Committee will be established in each council area to make recommendations to the Councils about projects which the community wants to invest in. These could include local services and infrastructure, programs/events, support for local businesses, or environmental initiatives. Benefit funds may be rolled over to subsequent years should the Advisory Committee and Councils decide to do so. All money paid into and out of the CBF will be monitored and reported by each Council, so the community will know exactly where the money is being spent.

We are currently working with each Council to finalise the VPA documentation, and, subject to Council approval of this documentation, we expect that the VPA will be publicly exhibited in each Council area in early 2024.





Walcha WinterbourneWind shopfront update

The WinterbourneWind office is currently unattended. If you have any questions or would like to speak to the project team to discuss the project, please contact us on **1800 252 040** or email **info@winterbournewindfarm.com.au**.