



Welcome to our latest project update

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Planning update

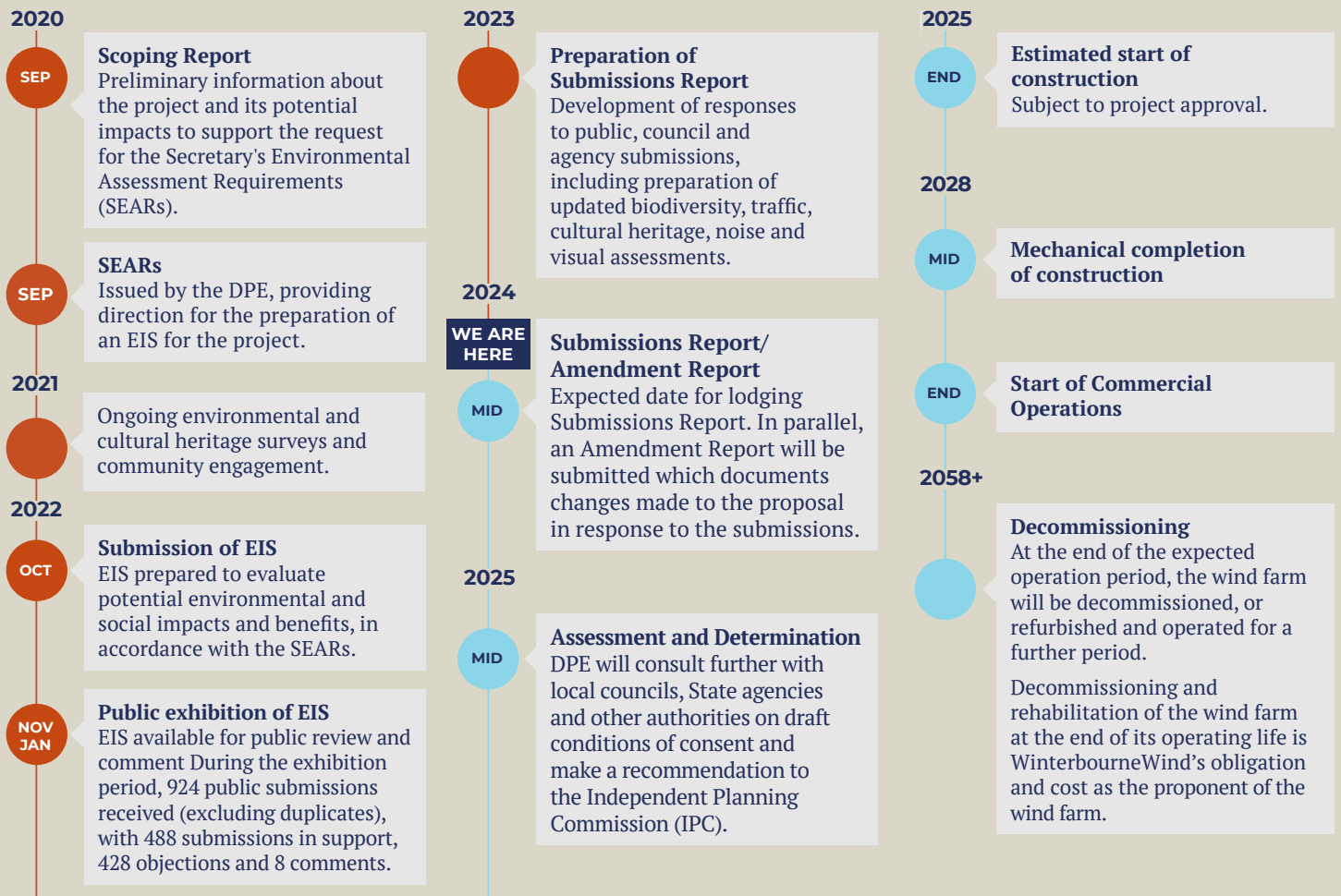
WinterbourneWind is currently finalising a Submissions Report for the proposed wind project, which is the next step in the planning process following public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late 2022 and early 2023. The Submissions Report was originally targeted to be lodged 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



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.