

# **Community Benefit Fund**

Walcha Council, Uralla Shire Council, and WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd have now signed a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) which will establish a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) for the wind farm project. This is a great outcome for both the project and our communities.

WinterbourneWind will provide \$1,000,000 to the CBF when the project achieves financial commitment, and \$750,000 annually to the fund from the start of commercial operations through to project decommissioning (based on a project up to 600 MW capacity). For every megawatt over 600 MW built, we will contribute an extra \$1,000 per MW annually to the CBF. The annual payment will be adjusted for inflation according to the Consumer Price Index.

The CBF will be supported by community advisory committees, established to make recommendations to the Uralla and Walcha Councils about the kinds of projects and services the community wants to invest 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 Local Government Area.

## **Submissions Report**

We have now lodged the Submissions Report with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

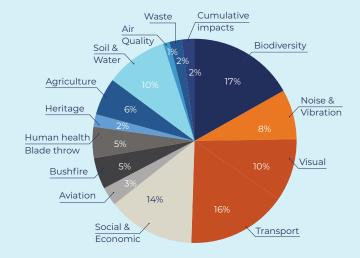
The Submissions Report is available on the Major Projects portal https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects

We considered all feedback received during exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the report provides responses to those comments.

The report includes an analysis of issues raised in submissions and explains what actions and mitigations have been taken by WinterbourneWind since the EIS exhibition.

The Submissions Report was prepared in accordance with the State Significant Development Guidelines. There were 959 submissions, made up of 924 public submissions, four local Council submissions, 14 organisation submissions and 17 submissions with advice from government agencies. Over half of the submissions were in support of the Project.

## Issues identified in public comments





## **Amendment Report**

We have now lodged the Amendment Report with DPHI.

The report and associated appendices are also available on the Major Projects portal.

The Amendment Report will be on public exhibition from 8 October to 4 November 2024. The exhibition period provides an opportunity for community and stakeholders to review the amended project proposal and make a submission.

The Amendment Report documents changes to the proposed Project which have been made to address issues raised in submissions to the EIS as well as feedback from ongoing engagement with the community, landholders, local councils and government agencies.

The Project has been amended to reduce its impacts to biodiversity, visual, noise, traffic, and electromagnetic interference as well as potential cumulative impacts. The Amended Project significantly improves overall project outcomes.

### **Key Project amendments**

Amendment	Detail of change	Response to submissions received
Turbine layout reconfiguration	Two turbines removed, one turbine added, 21 turbine positions relocated (moved > 100 metres), 52 turbine positions refined (moved < 100 metres).	Reduces visual, biodiversity and electromagnetic interference impacts.
New transport route	Inclusion of new transport route along Thunderbolts Way for inbound oversize and overmass (OSOM) vehicles.	Addresses community comments about oversize vehicles affecting traffic along Oxley Highway.
New on-site quarry	Construction of on-site quarry to supply gravel, aggregates and potentially bedding material required for Project construction.	Significantly reduces heavy vehicle movements on the local road network, improves safety, and addresses concerns in relation to supply of materials for the project.
Realignment of site access locations and internal access tracks.	Internal access tracks realigned to match refined turbine layout.	Reduces impacts to biodiversity and improves design and construction efficiency.
Realignment and relocation of electrical infrastructure	Relocation of both substations, reduction in length of the main transmission line, realignment of cable reticulation, and addition of short sections of overhead 33kV transmission line.	Realignment of electrical infrastructure significantly reduces biodiversity impact and the relocation of the south substation moves infrastructure away from the National Park.

## **Next steps in planning process**

#### Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Following public DPHI will complete The NSW Minister We expect a exhibition of the its assessment of the for Planning and determination by mid Public Places will refer amended proposal, Project and prepare an 2026. If approved, we will prepare a new assessment report, taking the proposal to the construction is expected Submissions Report in into consideration the EIS, Independent Planning to start in 2027. response to issues raised Amendment Report and Commission (IPC) for by stakeholders and Submissions Reports. determination. community.

## We want to hear from you!

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.

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