

Welcome to our latest project update



In this edition, read about:

- **Submissions Report No. 2 now lodged**
- **Traffic and transport update**
- **Biodiversity update**
- **In the community**

Submissions Report No. 2 now lodged

WinterbourneWind has now lodged Submissions Report No. 2. This report provides a response to issues raised by community members and government agencies during public exhibition of the Amendment Report in late 2024.

A total of 412 submissions were received during the exhibition period, including 367 public submissions, 28 organisation submissions, three local council submissions and advice from 14 government agencies. **Of the 367 public submissions received, 70% were in support. Of the 204 public and organisation submissions from the Walcha area, 60% were in support.**

Summary of Submissions

Type	Object	Support	Comment	Total
Public	107	257	3	367
Organisation	8	20	-	28
Local council	-	-	3	3
Agency advice	-	-	14	14
Total	115	277	20	412

Key issues raised in council and agency submissions related to:

- Traffic and transport including the OSOM transport route and road infrastructure upgrades
- Biodiversity impacts
- Increased demand for housing and accommodation in the local area.

The Submissions Report No. 2 and associated technical appendices are available on the Major Projects Planning Portal and on our website here: <https://www.winterbournewindfarm.com.au/downloads>

Next steps

The project will now be evaluated by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and may be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination, expected to be in late 2025.



Traffic and transport update

In response to feedback from Transport for NSW, WinterbourneWind prepared an Amended Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA). The amended TIA provides further information about the proposed transport route for wind turbine components, including the proposed new detour at Staces Road in Uralla.

It is anticipated that an average of 16 OSOM vehicles will travel down Thunderbolts Way each week, which equates to 2 or 3 loads per day. An indicative transport schedule is shown in the table to the right. These OSOM trips are expected to take place over approximately 24 months. All OSOM transport will be conducted outside of school bus hours.

The Amended TIA also provides drawings for the intersections of wind farm access tracks with public roads, and the results of additional traffic count surveys conducted on local roads in November 2024.

Indicative OSOM Transport Schedule

Component	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Tower 1	✓					✓	
Tower 2	✓					✓	
Tower 3			✓				
Tower 4			✓				
Tower 5				✓			
Tower 6		✓					
Tower 7		✓					
Nacelle					✓		
Powertrain				✓			
Hub				✓			
Blade 1	✓					✓	
Blade 2			✓				
Blade 3					✓		

Source: RJA, 2024

Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR)

WinterbourneWind has now completed a third revision of the BDAR in response to feedback from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation and Science Directorate. The purpose of the BDAR is to identify and assess biodiversity values in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020.

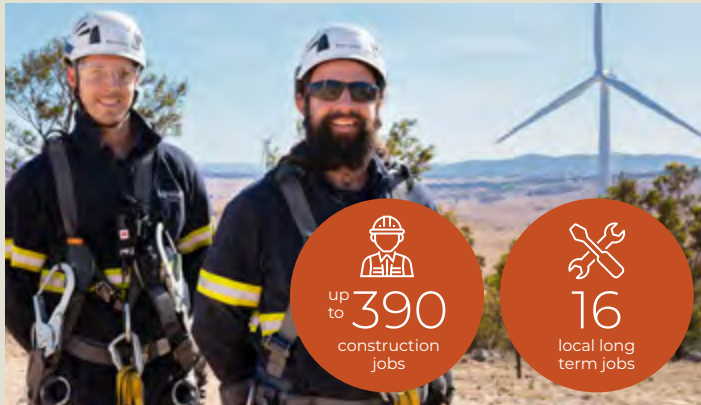
Overall, we have undertaken six years of surveys and technical assessment for the proposed wind farm. The project footprint is 882 hectares, which includes all turbine hardstands, access tracks, transmission lines, electrical infrastructure, the onsite quarry, and upgrades to local roads where required.

Only 464 ha of this footprint is classified as native vegetation which requires a biodiversity offset, and of this, 343 ha is mapped as low- or moderate-condition grasslands. The wind farm infrastructure has been preferentially sited in these grassland areas to minimize impact to high-condition woody vegetation and the threatened species who utilise this vegetation for habitat.

An updated turbine risk assessment was completed that assesses the risk of bird and bat strike at each turbine location, using habitat factors including distance to woody vegetation, proximity to water sources and topographic features such as caves, ridgelines, and rocky outcrops with the potential to be used by cave-dwelling microbats. Most turbines returned a low risk rating. No turbines were deemed to be high or very high risk.



In the community



TAFE Connects with Walcha

WinterbourneWind attended the TAFE Connects with Walcha workshop to discuss training requirements and opportunities. Should the wind farm project be approved, we estimate up to 390 construction jobs will be created over four years, providing opportunities for local employees and businesses interested in working on the project. Project construction will also provide opportunities for a wide range of service providers including agricultural suppliers, mechanics, hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores. We also estimate up to 16 long term local jobs during operation, with workers based in the local area.



Rotary Youth in Agriculture Sheep (RYAG Sheep) 2025

WinterbourneWind was grateful to be able to support RYAG again in 2025. RYAG is an inspirational program for students interested in the sheep industry, and the program was attended by 32 students this year. We understand there is currently no other program available which offers students such a comprehensive introduction to the sheep and wool industries.

Well done Rotary Walcha!

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

Email: info@winterbournewindfarm.com.au

Phone: 1800 252 040