

GULLEN RANGE

WIND FARM



COMMUNITY UPDATE 8

JUNE 2016

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016

We are excited to announce that Gullen Range Wind Farm produced enough electricity in 2015 to power 60,000 homes! This number is calculated by taking the average daily output of the wind farm over the year and comparing it to the daily average consumption of electricity by a typical home¹. To put this in perspective, in the 2011 census, Goulburn was recorded as having 8119 homes. Considering only residential usage, on average the wind farm produces enough power to keep the lights on in more than seven cities the size of Goulburn!

Clean Energy Program

For those of you who might not be familiar with this program, it is offered by Gullen Range Wind Farm to eligible residents who live within 5km of a wind turbine. It consists of two stages, which will be available for 25 years or until the wind farm is decommissioned. Stage 1 is where we pay for an energy efficiency audit of your house. You'll receive a report from our independent consultant about how you can save energy – perhaps through better lighting, heating, insulation or even a solar hot water or solar PV system. Residents receive a \$150 voucher to spend at Bunnings on bits and pieces to assist with improving home efficiency. To date, forty-two residents have benefited from this and the feedback we have received has been very positive.

Stage 2 of the scheme is where the wind farm assists residents with the installation of a solar PV or solar hot water system. At present we have nine applications for stage 2 of the program.

We have received a lot of feedback about the program through our 1800 phone number and our email address. We appreciate this feedback, which is why we have decided to revise the way that stage 2 of the program works, before we fund any stage 2 applications. Proposed revisions include expanding the program so wall insulation and better insulated windows can be funded (in addition to solar PV and solar hot water) and amending the program so that residents no longer need to find the money to pay for their stage 2 installation upfront.

We think all of these changes will make the program work much better for the community. We encourage you to read more about the proposed changes on our website. We plan to have the revised program up and running in August. At the moment the proposed changes are being reviewed by Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

We will hold an information session at Bannister Hall on June 28th from 4pm to 7pm to answer any questions on the revised program. This will be an informal session where you can drop in and talk to us about the program. Please watch our website for more information.

Stage 1 of the program is unaffected by this delay, so if you haven't already applied we encourage you to do so. You can find the application forms on our website.

Clean Energy Program Session at Bannister Hall

28th June 2016, 4 PM - 7 PM

1. Based on 18kWh per house sourced from <https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/benchmark> using inputs of: 2580 postcode, 3 people per house, no pool, no gas

Contact Us: For further information on the project please call the 24-hour toll-free GRWF Community Contact Line on 1800 509 711 or email info@gullenrangewindfarm.com

Write: NGRWF, Suite 3, Level 21, 1 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. Website: www.gullenrangewindfarm.com

Sponsorship

Gullen Range Wind Farm has been very excited with its sponsorship program during 2016. We have supported the Crookwell Show and the Crookwell Potato Festival. We attended and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at these two events. We have also stepped up our support of the Crookwell Devils for 2016 and we wish them the best for the remainder of the season.



Gullen Range Wind Farm at Crookwell Potato Festival



Crookwell Devils sponsored by Gullen Range Wind Farm

Community Consultative Committee

Gullen Range Wind Farm is looking for members for its Community Consultative Committee (CCC). We are required under our Project Approval to run such a committee. More importantly though, we think regularly talking to the community about the wind farm is a good thing, so we are looking forward to getting the CCC up and running. Unfortunately, to date, our newspaper ads have not generated sufficient members to get started. The committee is all about providing a forum for discussion between the wind farm, the community, the councils and other stakeholders. For instance, we'd like to be able to discuss our ideas for the 2016 Open Day with the committee. The committee will meet quarterly and we encourage you to get onboard!

We are required to have an independent chairperson for the committee, and Peter Gordon has been appointed by NSW Department of Planning and Environment. You can find out more about the committee and Peter Gordon on our website or by contacting us on our 1800 number or email address. The wind farm doesn't get to say who is on the committee, so if you would like to take part, the next steps are to contact Peter Gordon, so that he can let you know about the application process. His contact details are:

Email: pgordon@economicfutures.com.au

Address: PO Box 5519, Kingston, ACT, 2064

Applications Now Open for CCC Membership

Closing date: 30th June 2016

RFS Meeting

Gullen Range Wind Farm attended the Rural Fire Service meeting at Bannister Hall on 15th May. It was great to see so many people from the community proactive about preventing fire. The wind farm has been liaising with Crookwell RFS in order to update our bushfire management and emergency response plans, prior to the next bushfire season.

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2016 Open Day

In 2016, Gullen Range Wind Farm will hold a community open day on Sunday October 16th. This will align with the Clean Energy Council's Australia wide wind farm open day. It would be fantastic if you could keep that day free so that you can come and take a look at NSW largest operating wind farm. Please keep an eye on our website for further information.

On Friday October 14th, we will host our first school visits to the wind farm. Although the details are still being finalised, two Crookwell primary schools will bring their year 5 classes to the wind farm to learn a little about renewable energy and see one of our wind turbines up close. This will be an annual event for the wind farm and we intend to invite more schools in future years.



Community Fund

For 2016, more than \$70,000 was made available to the wind farm Community Fund. A committee meeting was held on 11th March to allocate the funding. The committee is formed of two community representatives as well as representatives from Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Shire Council and one person from the wind farm.

Seven applications were received and funds were allocated to the following groups:

- Crookwell Aged Care – Improved infrastructure (partially funded).
- Crookwell Services Men's Bowling Club – Replace score boards and ageing equipment.
- Crookwell CWA Day Branch – Repainting of Crookwell CWA Rooms.
- Bannister and District Hall Association – Improvements to the hall (partially funded).
- Breadalbane Hall Committee – New ride on lawn mower.
- Crookwell High School – Refurbishments to the library (partially funded).

If you are part of a community group that would like to apply for funding, then please send us an email and we will ensure you are notified when the 2017 funding round begins. This is expected to be in December, but it is worth registering your interest early so that you can be kept up to date on any information sessions we hold. The fund is open to projects, programs or facilities that are either:

- located within 10 kilometres of the wind farm.
- provide a direct benefit to the community within 10 kilometres of the wind farm.

Landscape Planting

By the close of 2015, Gullen Range Wind Farm had planted in excess of 7500 trees at 66 properties within 3km of the wind farm. Unfortunately, some of these trees died over the dry summer. We have recently replanted these trees and have refined our watering programme for the coming summer. The planting works also involved installing over 20km of fencing and more than 130 gates. The wind farm thanks local firm, Clancy Contracting, for their hard work in achieving this.

TV Tower

Gullen Range Wind Farm was pleased to see the new TV transmitter in Crookwell commissioned during February, improving TV for many residents near Crookwell. The wind farm thanks Goldwind (a 25% shareholder in the wind farm) for its goodwill input of \$80,000 toward the new transmitter.



Julian King (right) from Goldwind at the TV Tower opening.

Asset Management Contact

There have been some minor changes in the operational structure of the wind farm. To explain, the wind farm is officially owned by a company called New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd, or NGRWF for short. NGRWF is jointly owned by Goldwind and another investor called JNCEC.

In late 2015, Asset Management of the wind farm was transferred from Goldwind to NGRWF. NGRWF previously relied on Goldwind to perform all of the Asset Management duties, but in August of last year, NGRWF took over these.

What does this mean to you? The answer is very little. NGRWF's office in Sydney is very close to Goldwind's and the two companies work very closely together. NGRWF and Goldwind remain committed to the wind farm and the surrounding community.

As part of the transfer, the Asset Manager for the wind farm has changed from Tom Froid to Derek Powell. Tom and Derek meet regularly and Tom still visits the wind farm often.

Meanwhile, Clare Powell is currently on maternity leave and Isabel Nelson is assisting in her absence. If you contact us through our 1800 number or send us an email, it is more than likely the person who calls you back will be Derek or Isabel.

Solar Farm

Some of you might be aware that Goldwind has submitted a planning application for a solar farm at Bannister. The proposed solar farm is located on land east of Storriers Lane, not far from the wind farm electricity substation. Goldwind is a 25% owner of New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd, who owns the wind farm. NGRWF may purchase the solar farm from Goldwind in the near future, but for the moment the wind farm and the solar farm are being managed separately.

However, in the interests of good communication, we have obtained an update from Goldwind regarding the solar farm. The solar farm is proposed by Goldwind as a 10MW project, producing electricity to power approximately 3000 homes, with solar panels installed over approximately 20ha of ground. Planning approval for the project has not yet been granted, but a decision is expected in June or July. Construction is expected to take six to nine months with completion in the first half of 2017. The solar farm has a website at www.gullensolarfarm.com and they can be contacted using the following details:

Email: info@gullensolarfarm.com

Phone: 1800725270 (note this is a different 1800 number to the wind farm info line).