

For immediate release

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Creating homes for wildlife on Gullen Range Wind Farm

Gullen Range Wind Farm has recently installed thirty nest boxes in an area set aside for habitat conservation on the wind farm called the Compensatory Habitat Package area. Although nest boxes are not the same as natural tree hollows, they can still be an essential substitute for many animal species that rely on tree hollows for nesting and shelter. In Australia, it is estimated that at least 303 native vertebrate species use hollows. These species include 83 mammals, 114 birds, 79 reptiles and 27 amphibians (Gibbons and Lindenmayer, 2002).

The nest boxes have been carefully installed by specialist ecologists in five different vegetation zones, including Applebox-Yellowbox Woodland and Broad-leaved Peppermint - Brittle Gum Dry Forest. Comprising different designs, the nest boxes are tailored to the requirements of a variety of animal groups that might use them, such as birds, possums, gliders and bats. Nest boxes have even been installed to suit different types of birds, such as small parrots and the Owlet-nightjar.

The erection of nest boxes is just one part of a much bigger plan, called the Property Vegetation Plan (or PVP), which was approved by the NSW Local Land Services in December 2016. The Property Vegetation Plan aims to protect and enhance the conservation value of the Compensatory Habitat Package area for the lifetime of the wind farm. This 123-hectare area, equivalent to more than 123 football fields, is a requirement of the wind farm's project approval to make up for the 35 hectares of land impacted by the construction of the wind farm, for example when vegetation was cleared to lay the access tracks to the turbines.

Derek Powell, Asset Manager at the wind farm said, "We're excited about the work we've been doing this year to improve the significant conservation value of this beautiful and varied offset site. So far, we've planted 300 trees, seeded for native grasses, undertaken weed control, completed an extensive pest survey, and used traps to control pigs. We've also installed 3km of fencing to stop cattle getting in. We are especially excited to find out which species have moved into our recently installed nest boxes! Keep an eye on our website for an update."

For more information about the Gullen Range Wind Farm or the Conservation Property Vegetation Plan, please visit www.gullenrangewindfarm.com

Reference: Gibbons, P. and Lindenmayer, D (2002), *Tree hollows and wildlife conservation in Australia*, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

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About Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm

Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm are owned and operated by New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd (NGRWF), a joint venture between Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy Co., Ltd. (75%) and Goldwind Capital (Australia) Pty Ltd (25%).

The Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm are the first co-located wind and solar farms in Australia. Gullen Range Wind Farm first generated electricity in 2013 and consists of 73 wind turbines with a total capacity of 165.5MW. Gullen Solar Farm consists of more than 40,000 solar panels and has a peak capacity of 10MW. It was partially funded (\$9.9M) by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and first generated electricity in 2017. Located 10km south of Crookwell in the Southern Tablelands, on an average day of wind and solar, the combined facility can power more than 65,000 average homes.

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Captions:

Image one: Nest boxes were very carefully installed, making sure the trees were not injured.

Image two: Nest boxes were installed up to 7m above the ground in five vegetation zones