

**Clean Energy Program Annual Report**

**Reporting Period:**

**Year 5**

**(from 23 December 2018 – 22 December 2019)**

NGRWF-REP-059-01

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## Executive Summary

- This document reports on the implementation status of the Gullen Range Wind Farm Clean Energy Program Stages 1 and 2, and the Clean Energy Program fund statement, including information of allocated funds and their use for Year 5 (from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019).
- During Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program, a total of 11 Stage 1 applications were received, 8 Energy Efficiency Audits were carried out (including an application received at the end of Year 4) and 8 Stage 1 vouchers were issued to applicants.
- Regarding Stage 2 of the Clean Energy Program, 8 applications were approved by the Energy Committee, with the total value of all the approved grants for Year 5 amounting to \$54,551. The average approved grant value was \$6818.88. The applicants only chose the Solar Reimbursement Package.
- At the end of Year 5, the Clean Energy Program fund was in deficit by \$163,595 on an accrual basis, indicating that New Gullen Range Wind Farm (or NGRWF, as the owner and proponent of Gullen Range Wind Farm) has voluntarily committed \$163,595 more to the program than is required under the wind farm Development Approval. NGRWF has advanced funding from future years of the Clean Energy Program to cover this shortfall. No roll-over of Clean Energy Program funds into the Community Fund has been required due to the Clean Energy Program being in deficit on an accrual basis.

# 1 Introduction

Gullen Range Wind Farm was granted a Project Approval from the NSW Land and Environment Court in 2009. The Wind Farm consists of 73 wind turbines and is located in the Southern Tablelands region of NSW. Gullen Range Wind Farm has been fully operational from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 (the Operation Date). The proponent for the Gullen Range Wind Farm is New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd (NGRWF).

The Project Approval (ref 07\_0118) for the development was modified by the Planning Assessment Commission in 2015. The Project Approval includes Condition 5.6, requiring NGRWF to operate a Community Enhancement Program (CEP). The Community Enhancement Program includes a Clean Energy Program (CLEP) and a Community Fund. This document reports on the Clean Energy Program during the reporting period. The Community Fund is governed by Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

Community Enhancement Program funding has been accruing from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014. The anniversary of the Community Enhancement Program scheme is 23<sup>rd</sup> December every year until the Wind Farm is decommissioned.

The operation of the Community Enhancement Program was governed by Document ref: GR-PM-PRC-0001, Rev 6 until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016. Following this date, the Community Enhancement Program was governed by Community Enhancement Program Document ref: NGRWF\_P\_003 Rev 1. From 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Community Enhancement Program was governed by Community Enhancement Program Document ref: NGRWF\_P\_003\_11. This Annual Report considers the revised Community Enhancement Program document which was effective during the annual report period, being the Document ref: NGRWF\_P\_003\_11.

The Community Enhancement Program aims to provide financial contributions towards implementing clean energy improvements to properties within the target community. The Clean Energy Program comprises 2 stages. Stage 1 must be completed before Stage 2 can be applied for. The Stages are defined as follows:

Stage 1: Energy Efficiency Package – provides Clean Energy Program eligible residents with an energy efficiency audit on their home or business and a monetary contribution, in the form of vouchers, toward energy efficiency upgrades, such as energy efficient light bulbs or more efficient shower roses. This stage aims to assist the resident in having the knowledge required to apply for grant funding in Stage 2 of the CLEP.

Stage 2 is divided into two further stages:

Stage 2A – Solar Reimbursement Package – assists Clean Energy Program eligible residents by providing a grant for the installation of a solar hot water system, a solar PV installation, or a battery storage system for the purposes of providing household power.

Stage 2B – Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Package – assists Clean Energy Program eligible residents by providing a grant for works to improve the energy efficiency of their home, through installation of improved insulation, double glazing or other modifications set out in the section 5.7.1 of the Community Enhancement Program.

The reporting period described in this report is the period from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, otherwise referred to as Year 5 of the program.

## 2 Purpose of This Document

This report aims to satisfy section 5.3 of the Community Enhancement Program - "...The Energy Committee will report on the Clean Energy Program annually, with a report issued after the Stage 2 Quarter 4 Funding Round has been completed every year....The report will include:

- Stage one: The number of (a) applications received, (b) energy audits undertaken and (c) vouchers given to CLEP Eligible Residents.
- Stage two: The number of (1) applications received, (b) applications approved for each Stage 2 package and the type of energy efficiency improvement funded.
- Fund Statement, being the income, expenditure and balance of the CLEP."

## 3 Clean Energy Program Stage 1

### 3.1 Energy Efficiency Audits

A total of 11 applications were received from Clean Energy Program eligible residents between 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 shows when applications were received and processed during Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program**

| Date   | Quarter | Number of Applications Received and/or Processed |
|--|---------|--|
| Received December 23 2018– March 22 2019                 | 1       | 0  |
| Received March 23 – June 22 2019                         | 2       | 2  |
| Received June 23 – September 22 2019                     | 3       | 4  |
| Received September 23 – December 22 2019                 | 4       | 5  |
| <b>Total number of applications received</b>             |         | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>Unprocessed applications carried over from Year 4</b> |         | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Processed applications during the year</b>            |         | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>Unprocessed applications carried over to Year 6</b>   |         | <b>4</b>   |

Out of the 11 applications received during Year 5, seven were provided with energy efficiency audits in Year 5 and the remaining four applicants were provided with energy efficiency audits at the start of Year 6. Energy efficiency audits were also performed in Year 5 for one application received in Year 4. Only the 8 applications that were processed are included in Year 5's Clean Energy Program fund statement below. The remaining 4 applications were processed in Year 6 and will be reported on in the Year 6 Annual Report.

The total number of audits in Year 5 was 8.

### 3.2 Vouchers for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

With each audit report, a voucher valued at \$150.00 (to be spent at Bunnings) was given to Clean Energy Program eligible applicants to be used toward energy efficiency upgrades recommended in their Stage 1 Energy Efficiency Audit Report. As there were 8 Clean Energy Program audits in Year 5, a total of 8 vouchers were issued to eligible applicants.

## 4 Clean Energy Program Stage 2

A total of 10 Stage 2 applications were received from eligible residents between 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, as shown in Table 2.

Out of the 10 applications received, 1 was withdrawn, 8 were approved and 1 was declined by the Energy Committee. The application was declined due to insufficient information provided by the applicant. However, the applicant was invited to resubmit a revised application in the following Funding Round.

**Table 2 shows the number of Stage 2 applications received and approved in each Funding Round during Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program**

| <b>Funding Round Dates</b>       | <b>Quarter</b> | <b>Number of Applications Received</b> | <b>Number of Applications Approved</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| December 23 2018 – March 22 2019 | 1              | 5                                      | 5                                      |
| March 23 – June 22 2019          | 2              | 0                                      | 0                                      |
| June 23 – September 22 2019      | 3              | 3*                                     | 2                                      |
| September 23 – December 22 2019  | 4              | 2**                                    | 1                                      |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                | <b>10</b>                              | <b>8</b>                               |

\*one application was withdrawn on 3/12/2019, before it was reviewed by the Energy Committee.

\*\*one application was declined due to insufficient information provided by the applicant.

Table 3 shows the number of Clean Energy Program grants approved for each Stage 2 Package, including each type of energy efficiency improvement. In Year 5, all the approved grants were for solar PV systems under the Solar Reimbursement Package.

**Table 3 shows the number of approved Clean Energy Program grants for each Stage 2 Package, including each type of energy efficiency improvement**

|   | Stage 2 Package & Energy Efficiency Improvement | No. of approved grants in Funding Round ending 22/03/2019 | No. of approved grants in Funding Round ending 22/06/2019 | No. of approved grants in Funding Round ending 22/09/2019 | No. of approved grants in Funding Round ending 22/12/2019 | Total for Year 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Stage 2A-<br>Solar Reimbursement Package                | Solar PV System                                 | 5   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 8                |
|   | Solar Hot Water                                 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                |
|   | <b>Stage 2A – Total</b>                         | <b>5</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>8</b>         |
| Stage 2B-<br>Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Package | Home Insulation                                 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                |
|   | Window coverings - curtains & blinds            | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                |
|   | Double glazing                                  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                |
|   | <b>Stage 2B – Total</b>                         | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>         |

## 5 Clean Energy Program - Year 5 Fund Statement

The average approved grant value for Year 5 was \$6818.88, which is below the Target Allocation Value of \$6870 for Year 5 (and is thus compliant with paragraph 5.7.2 of the Community Enhancement Program “...each year the Energy Committee will aim to ensure that the average value of approved applications will be equal to or less than this Target Allocation Value”). The total value of all the approved grants for Year 5 was \$54,551.

Table 4 below summarises income and expenditure of the Clean Energy Program from 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. The table shows the total amount of funds remaining at the end of Year 5 after taking into account (1) the value of the actual income and expenditure and (2) the value of the allocated income and expenditure. More details about how the income and expenditure is calculated can be found in section 5.1 below and in the Community Enhancement Program document.

### 5.1 Basis for preparation of the Clean Energy Program fund statement for Year 5

The fund statement for Year 5 set out in table 4 below reports income, expenditure and the balances on both accrual and cash basis. The “Allocated sum” column reports the income, expenditure and the balance on accrual basis and the balance is used to determine whether any Clean Energy Program funds need to rollover into the Community Fund, as per the rollover condition described in Section 5.5 of the Community Enhancement Program document. In Table 4, this information is described in the column ‘Allocated Sums’.

The “Actual Sum” column reports income, expenditure and balance on a cash basis to track actual annual cash flow relating to Clean Energy Program.

Inherent to the design of the Program is that actual expenditure (shown in the ‘Actual Sums’ column) will likely lag behind allocated expenditure (shown in the ‘Allocated Sums’ column) as

1. Stage 2 system installations can take several months to be undertaken, following which payment to the supplier becomes due,
2. Applicants may not immediately spend the full value of their Stage 1 vouchers, and
3. Independent member costs usually become due following the review periods, meaning that some of the payments (e.g. for the quarterly four funding round and annual report reviews) will not be made until the following Clean Energy Program financial year.



**Table 4 Fund Statement for Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program, 23 December 2018 to 22 December 2019**

| Year 5 – ending 22 December 2019   |                     |                      |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Item   | Actual Sums<br>\$   | Allocated Sums<br>\$ |
| Community Enhancement Program funds accumulated gain/(deficit) brought forward from prior year (Year 4)  | (24,072)            | (174,070)            |
| CEP contribution from NGRWF for Year 5 (\$60,809.00 base figure indexed for CPI from base year using CPI Q3 data of 114.7 (2018) and 96.3 (2010))  | 72,428              | 72,428               |
| Stage 1 – Cost of vouchers   | (1,436)             | (1,200)              |
| Stage 1 & 2 – Cost of Energy Efficiency Expert   | (5,940)             | (4,400)              |
| Stage 1 & 2 – Cost of Independent Member (capped at \$3,000 (indexed) for administration costs as defined in Community Enhancement Program Table 2, section 4.1, version ref NGRWF_P_003_11) | (2,366)             | (1,801)              |
| Stage 2 - Cost of grants issued  | (141,690)           | (54,551)             |
| <b>Community Enhancement Program funds accumulated gain/(deficit) carried forward to next year.</b>  | <b>(103,076) **</b> | <b>(163,595) *</b>   |

\*Value used to calculate if there are deficit funds that will be advanced from future years (Year 6)

\*\* Inherent to the design of the Program is that actual expenditure will likely lag behind allocated expenditure as (1) some Stage 2 system installations may not have been completed by the end of the Year 5, (2) some applicants may not have spent their Stage 1 vouchers and (3) some Independent member and Energy Efficiency Expert costs for Year 4 were paid for in Year 5.

The cash deficit was funded by NGRWF.

## 6 Conclusion

During Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program, a total of 11 Stage 1 applications were received, 8 Energy Efficiency Audits were carried out (including an application received at the end of Year 4) and 8 Stage 1 vouchers were issued to applicants. Regarding Stage 2 of the Clean Energy Program, 8 applications were approved by the Energy Committee, with the total value of all the approved grants for Year 5 amounting to \$54,551. The average approved grant value was \$6818.88. The applicants all chose the Solar Reimbursement Package. At the end of Year 5, the Clean Energy Program fund was in deficit by \$163,595 on an accrual basis, indicating that NGRWF (as the owner and proponent of Gullen Range Wind Farm) has voluntarily committed \$163,595 more to the program than is required under the wind farm Development Approval. NGRWF has advanced funding from future years of the Clean Energy Program to cover this shortfall. No roll-over of Clean Energy Program funds into the Community Fund has been required due to the Clean Energy Program being in deficit on an accrual basis.

## 7 Declaration

During Year 5 of the Clean Energy Program, NGRWF has complied with its commitment to operate a Clean Energy Program, under Condition 5.6 of the Ministers Conditions of Approval (MCoA) for 07\_0118. The Committee has fulfilled its obligations under the Community Enhancement Program as described in this report.

Sign: 

Name: Derek Powell

on behalf of the Energy Committee

Date: 16/09/2020