

# **Gullen Range Wind Farm**

Community Information Plan | March 2021

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<i>2</i>	<i>November 2017</i>	<i>Amended and issued by New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>1/11/2019</i>	<i>Minor amendments to company ownership details, contacts details and formatting following annual review in conjunction with CCC.</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>31/03/2021</i>	<i>Minor amendments to contact details</i>

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# 1 Plan Overview

## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this updated Community Information Plan (CIP) is to guide stakeholder engagement activity for the Gullen Range Wind Farm through its operational and decommissioning phases.

## 1.2 The Project

Gullen Range Wind Farm consists of 73 wind turbines, manufactured by Goldwind Science and Technology. Two different types of turbine are installed on the project: the GRW100-2.5MW (56 turbines) and the GW82-1.5MW (17 turbines). The GW100-2.5MW has a 100m-diameter rotor with a hub height of 80m (this is the height of the centre of the rotor). This makes for a height from ground level to the top of the rotor (the tip height) of 130m. At full power these turbines produce 2.5MW of power. The GW82-1.5MW has an 82m-diameter rotor on an 85m tower, a tip height of 126m and at full power it produces 1.5MW.

Goldwind Capital (Australia) began construction of the project in 2012. The substation was energised and the first turbines began operating in 2013. The wind farm was fully operational with all turbines commissioned and exporting electricity on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014. During the construction phase, the wind farm was purchased by BJCE Australia.

The wind farm continues to be owned by BJCE Australia through its subsidiary, New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty. Ltd. (NGRWF).

## 1.3 Community Information Plan

This document, following consultation with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC), provides an updated version of the approved Community Information Plan (November 2019). It is designed to satisfy the Department of Environment & Planning's 2015 updated requirements of clause 5.3 of the Conditions of Consent of the Project Approval. According to that updated clause, this Community Information Plan (CIP) must include, but not be limited to:

- a) Procedures to inform the local community of planned investigations and construction or decommissioning activities, including blasting works;
- b) Procedures to inform the relevant community of construction or decommissioning traffic routes and any potential disruptions to traffic flows and amenity impacts;
- c) Procedures to consult with local landowners with regard to construction or decommissioning traffic to ensure the safety of livestock and to limit disruption to livestock movements;
- d) Procedures to inform the community where work has been approved to be

- undertaken outside the normal construction or decommissioning hours, in particular noisy activities;
- e) Procedures to inform and consult with those landowners who are eligible for landscaping on their property as determined under condition 2.2 of this approval; and
  - f) Procedures to notify relevant landowners of the process available to review potential impacts on radio and television transmission.

NGRWF has developed this updated CIP to reflect the needs and characteristics of the Gullen Range Wind Farm, which is now in its operations phase. It outlines the objectives and mechanisms it will use to engage with key stakeholders and the local community in relation to its project throughout the operations and decommissioning phases.

#### **1.4 Community Information Plan Objectives**

- To ensure open, factual and timely communications between the wind farm and the community.
- To educate and inform the community on wind farm work and activities that may affect them.
- To provide processes for the community to communicate with the wind farm, including where a community member can register a complaint.
- To inform the community of the professionalism with which the wind farm is operated, including the compliance activities undertaken and the results of these activities.
- To illustrate a culture of transparency and accountability to the community.
- To educate the community about the benefits of the wind farm and renewable energy – highlighting the wind farm’s generation and environmental performance.
- To inform community members of wind farm initiatives and opportunities in order that they can benefit from them.
- To be a good local citizen, providing social and economic benefit to the local community.

In addition to these general objectives, NGRWF will continually endeavour to maximise the local and regional benefits of the development, specifically through the Clean Energy Program, educational outreach activities, local sponsorships and the Community Fund.

## 2. Key Stakeholders

### 2.1 Overview

This section of the CIP identifies the key stakeholders with whom NGRWF will engage and communicate throughout the operations and decommissioning phases of the project.

### 2.2 Residents & Landowners

NGRWF distinguishes landowners into the following groups based on whether or not they are involved with the project, and how distant from the wind farm their residence or dwelling is located:

- Involved landowners
- Adjacent neighbours (within 2km from wind turbine)
- Nearby neighbours (2-5km from wind turbine)
- Distant neighbours (5-15km from wind turbine)
- General public (>15km from wind turbine)

### 2.3 Community and Sporting Groups

The following local community groups have been identified as potentially representing key stakeholders. Additional stakeholder groups are likely to be identified through the ongoing communication and engagement process.

- Bannister Hall Committee
- Breadalbane Community Hall and Sporting Fields
- Grabben Gullen Hall Committee
- Grabben Gullen Community Progress Association
- Crookwell & District Historical Society
- Crookwell CWA
- Crookwell Golf Club
- Crookwell Hockey Club
- Crookwell Lions Club
- Crookwell Native Fauna and Flora Club
- Crookwell Men's Shed
- Crookwell Probus Club
- Crookwell Rotary
- Crookwell Rugby league Club
- Crookwell Rugby Union Club
- Crookwell Visitor Information Centre
- Grabben Gullen Landcare Group
- Goulburn Visitor Information Centre
- Gurrundah Community
- Pomeroy Community
- Rural Fire Services in the area
- Upper Lachlan Landcare
- Crookwell Landscaping Guardians

## 2.4 Schools

The following schools are located within relatively easy reach of the wind farm and potentially include students and teachers from the stakeholder group. NGRWF considers them to be important from the perspective of wind farm and renewable energy education.

Name	Website / Contact
Binda Primary School	Queen St, Binda 4835 6052
Bradfordville Public School	10/30 Hampden St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 4936
Collector Public School	Lorn St, Collector 4848 0024
Crookwell High School	Crown St, Crookwell, NSW 2583 4832 1421
Crookwell Public School	45 Denison St, Crookwell, NSW 2583 4832 1213
Goulburn East Public School	Eleanor St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 4007
Goulburn High School	132 Goldsmith St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 4022
Goulburn North Public School	1 Union St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 3838
Goulburn Public School	Bourke St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 2827
Goulburn South Public School	2 Addison St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 2759
Goulburn West Public School	106 Combermere St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 1781
Gunning Public School	Yass St, Gunning 4845 1129
Met School	120 Taralga Rd, Goulburn NSW 2580 4822 5588
Mulwaree High School	40 McDermott Dr, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 4499
ST Joseph's Primary School	101 Lagoon St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 3510
St Peter & Paul's Primary School	10 Knox St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 3304
St Mary's Primary School, Crookwell.	Wade St, Crookwell, NSW 2583 4832 1592
Tambelin	20 Fenwick Cres, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 5894
The Crescent School	Fitzroy St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 3680
Trinity Catholic College Goulburn	Clinton St & College St, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 3600

Name	Website / Contact
Wollondilly Public School	Newton St & Hoskins Street, Goulburn NSW 2580 4821 4496

## 2.5 Community Consultative Committee (or CCC)

The CCC provides a forum for open discussion between representatives of the wind farm, the community, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council and other stakeholders on issues relating to the wind farm.

CCC Independent Chairperson	Website / Contact
Peter Gordon	peter.gordon@charterpoint.com.au Post: PO Box 5519, Kingston, ACT 2064

## 2.6 Local Media

The following local media outlets have been identified as providing an important communication channel to key stakeholders, primarily due to their ability to disseminate information in the vicinity of the wind farm.

Name	Website / Contact
Crookwell Gazette	mail@crookwellgazette.com.au 4832 1077
Goulburn Post	editorial@fairfaxmedia.com.au 4827 3500
The Voice – Upper Lachlan Shire	Media Officer, Upper Lachlan Shire Council council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au 4830 1000
Community Blogs	
Radio - Crookwell	
Radio - Goulburn	Eagle FM 93.5 <a href="https://www.eaglefm.com.au/">https://www.eaglefm.com.au/</a>  1368 2GN <a href="https://www.2gn.com.au/">https://www.2gn.com.au/</a>



## 2.7 Local Government

Key officers and staff of the Local Government Authorities have been identified as follows.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council:

Position	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Mayor	John Stafford
Deputy Mayor	John Searl JP
Councillors	Brian McCormack OAM Paul Culhane Pam Kensit Darren O'Brien James Wheelwright
General Manager	Colleen Worthy

Goulburn Mulwaree Council:

Position	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Mayor	Bob Kirk
Deputy Mayor	Peter Walker
Councillors	Alfie Walker Andrew Banfield Carol James Denzil Sturgiss Leah Ferrara Margaret O'Neill Sam Rowland
General Manager	Warwick Bennett

## 2.8 Federal and State Ministers and Members

Key elected and Federal representatives have been identified as follows.

Jurisdiction	Position	Member / Minister
State	Minister for Energy and Environment Member for Hornsby	Matthew Kean (Liberal Party)
State	Member for Goulburn	Wendy Tuckerman (Liberal Party)
Federal	Minister for the Environment Federal Member for Farrer	Sussan Ley (Liberal Party)
Federal	Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Federal Member for Hume	Angus Taylor (Liberal Party)

## 3. Communication Strategy

### 3.1 Communication Tools

The following tools will be used to implement this CIP for wind farm stakeholders and the wider community. These tools, which facilitate communication, education and community engagement, have been listed in priority groupings of perceived importance, following consultation with members of the CCC.

#### Imperative:

- Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
- 1800 telephone number, email, website enquiry/complaints form
- Clean Energy Program
- Community Fund

#### Additional:

- Wind farm tours
- Website
- Sponsorship
- Social media
- School engagement
- Presentations to interest groups
- One-on-one meetings
- Newspaper advertisements
- Media reports of wind farm progress & activities
- Mail – email or hard copy as preferred
- Local community event participation
- eNewsletters (mailed to those who request this)
- Educational information screen display in the community (permanent or mobile - TBC)
- Digital application (for smartphone or tablet)

### 3.2 Schedule of Community Activities

Proposed Activity	Guideline Timing	Communication Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<b>CCC</b>	Quarterly or as agreed by the CCC	Maintain open lines of communication  Collect and respond to inquiry and feedback	Involved landowners  Nearby neighbours (2 - 5km from wind turbine)  Government representatives
<b>1800 telephone number, email, website enquiry/complaints form</b>	Ongoing	Maintain open lines of communication  Collect and respond to inquiry and feedback	Involved landowners  All neighbours  Community Stakeholders  General public
<b>Clean Energy Program</b>	Ongoing	Promote and encourage uptake of the Clean Energy program	Uninvolved landowners who live within 5km of a wind turbine
<b>Community Fund</b>	Annually	Implement on-going grant rounds to support community projects	Those located within 10km of a wind turbine on the wind farm  Service for community members located within 10km of a wind turbine on the wind farm

Proposed Activity	Guideline Timing	Communication Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<b>Wind Farm Tours</b>	Six per year	Educate and inform  Promote renewable energy  Provide information on company and wind farm	General public  Community groups  School students, their teachers and parents
<b>Website</b>	Ongoing	Provide latest information about the wind farm and BJCE's achievement to the public over the internet  Seek feedback and enquires  Evaluate and report on the environmental outcomes of the wind farm and its activities in the community	All stakeholders  General public
<b>Sponsorships</b>	On-going	Establish goodwill in the community	Community and sporting groups  Local events
<b>Social Media</b>	On-going	Inform & educate  Share feedback, news and information about the wind farm and its activities in the community  Monitor public perceptions of wind farms	General Public  All stakeholders

Proposed Activity	Guideline Timing	Communication Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<b>School Engagement</b>	<p>Target four (4) school programs/ excursions to the wind farm per year</p> <p>Attend special events or assemblies to speak about wind farms, renewable energy</p> <p>Sponsor school awards for academic achievement</p>	<p>Educate and Inform</p> <p>Enable and encourage learning</p>	<p>School children, their teachers and parents</p> <p>Residents and Landowners</p>
<b>Presentations to Interest Groups</b>	Ad-hoc	<p>Educate and Inform</p> <p>Enable and encourage learning</p> <p>Provide information on company and wind farm</p>	<p>Community stakeholders</p> <p>General public</p>
<b>One on One Meetings</b>	As requested	<p>Address concern</p> <p>Seek feedback</p> <p>Provide information</p>	<p>Involved landowners</p> <p>Uninvolved neighbours</p> <p>Community stakeholders</p>
<b>Newspaper Advertisement</b>	2-3 times each year	To remind people of the methods available for them to contact the wind farm	<p>All stakeholders</p> <p>General public</p>

Proposed Activity	Guideline Timing	Communication Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<b>Media Reports of Wind Farm Progress &amp; Activities</b>	Monthly	<p>Update community with current project information</p> <p>Educate and inform</p> <p>Provide accurate information, report progress and achievements and seek feedback</p> <p>Promote and market the community fund and sponsorship opportunities to encourage uptake and report outcomes</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p> <p>General public</p>
<b>Mail – emails or hard copy as preferred</b>	Optional – in special circumstances	Inform and educate stakeholders on particularly important wind farm activities or special circumstances	<p>Involved landowners</p> <p>Uninvolved neighbours</p> <p>Community stakeholders</p>
<b>Local Community Event Participation</b>	Ad-hoc – but at least twice each year	<p>Inform and educate about the wind farm, the company and renewable/clean energy</p> <p>Promote the community fund and sponsorship opportunities</p>	<p>Involved landowners</p> <p>Uninvolved neighbours</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>General Public</p>

Proposed Activity	Guideline Timing	Communication Objectives	Key Stakeholders
<b>eNewsletters</b>	Quarterly	<p>Update on developments</p> <p>Provide accurate information, report progress and achievements and seek feedback</p> <p>Promote and market the community fund and sponsorship opportunities to encourage uptake and report outcomes</p>	<p>Involved landowners</p> <p>Uninvolved neighbours</p> <p>Community stakeholders</p> <p>General public via local information centres</p> <p>Government agencies</p>
<b>Educational display screen in the community</b>	This could be a permanent or mobile display located alternatively in different local community centres	<p>Educate and inform</p> <p>Update community with current project information</p> <p>Enable and encourage learning</p> <p>Promote and market the community fund and sponsorship opportunities to encourage uptake and report outcomes</p>	<p>Involved landowners</p> <p>All Neighbours</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>General public</p>
<b>Digital Application Development</b>	Investigate the possibility of developing an app to provide real time data on wind generated and its impact on electricity supply (e.g. to Goulburn)	Provide latest information and educate on the wind farm, the company and clean /renewable energy	<p>Community Stakeholders</p> <p>School children</p> <p>General Public (potentially)</p>

### 3.3 How communication tools meet the requirements of clause 5.3

Requirements of Clause 5.3	Communication Tools
a) Procedures to inform the local community of planned investigations and construction or decommissioning activities, including blasting works	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Social media Presentations to interest groups One-on-one meetings Newspaper advertisements Media reports Educational display screen in the community Mail drop
b) Procedures to inform the relevant community of construction or decommissioning traffic routes and any potential disruptions to traffic flows and amenity impacts	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Social media Educational display screen in the community
c) Procedures to consult with local landowners with regard to construction or decommissioning traffic to ensure the safety of livestock and to limit disruption to livestock movements	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Social media Educational display screen in the community
d) Procedures to inform the community where work has been approved to be undertaken outside the normal construction or decommissioning hours, in particular noisy activities	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Social media Educational display screen in the community
e) Procedures to inform and consult with those landowners who are eligible for landscaping on their property as determined under condition 2.2 of this approval; and	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Mail drops
f) Procedures to notify relevant landowners of the process available to review potential impacts on radio and television transmission	Website Emails/mail eNewsletters Social media



## 4. Evaluation and Reporting

The outcomes and effectiveness of the CIP will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and reported annually to the CCC.

As each communication activity is undertaken, the details will be recorded in the wind farm's Consultation Manager software, together with an estimation of audience reach and any specific audience feedback received. Media reports will be collected and collated. Digital data will be collected from the website and social media to evaluate and report visitor traffic and community engagement via the Internet.

Any community complaints will be entered into the Complaints Register and reported with the CIP evaluation each year.

In response to feedback and following consultation with the CCC each year, the CIP can be refined and adjusted as required for the following 12-month period.