Welcome to the fourth edition of the White Rock Wind Farm newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. Further newsletters will be produced at regular intervals as the project progresses and milestones are achieved.

White Rock Wind Farm is located in the New England Tablelands approximately 20 km west of Glen Innes and 40 km east of Inverell.

What’s happening?

Australia’s biggest wind turbine blades arrive for White Rock Wind Farm

The first shipment of wind turbines destined for White Rock Wind Farm arrived in Newcastle NSW, on 15 October 2016. The shipment, consisting of 8 complete Goldwind 2.5 MW Wind Turbine Generators includes the biggest wind turbine blades to arrive in Australia to date. The 59.5m long blades were manufactured for Goldwind by Sinomatech Wind Power Blade Company.

“The 59.5m long wind turbine blades at White Rock Wind Farm will result in strong wind farm performance. Longer blades result in more energy being captured by the wind turbines. Roads and foundations are now being prepared at site ready for wind turbine installation.” said John Titchen, Managing Director of Goldwind Australia.
Community Consultative Committee

The aim of the Community Consultative Committee is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of White Rock Wind Farm, the community, local councils and other stakeholders, and to keep the community informed of progress.

The committee last met on the 3 November 2016. Meeting minutes are available on the project website and at the public libraries in Glen Innes and Inverell. The next meeting will be scheduled for February 2017. This meeting will provide an update on construction activities and the development process for the Community Enhancement Fund. Any person may attend the meeting as an observer. For further details on the committee please contact us.

Community Enhancement Fund

From August to October 2016, a sub-committee working group of the Community Consultative Committee was formed to work in collaboration with representatives from White Rock Wind Farm to develop the general principles and framework for the Community Enhancement Fund.

The aim of the Fund is to financially support initiatives and projects that enrich and enhance the local community of the White Rock Wind Farm. The Fund is a voluntary contribution from White Rock Wind Farm and comprises of $2,500 per commissioned turbine, per annum. The Fund will likely open at commencement of operations (late 2017).

The sub-committee group met 3 times between August and October, with discussion focussing on the following areas:

- eligibility to apply for funding, including geographic area for the fund
- focus areas for disbursement of funding
- application process and general principles for evaluating applications, and
- governance of the fund.

The sub-committee group then compiled draft guidelines and recommendations for the Fund and proposed these to the Community Consultative Committee at the 3 November meeting.

Works on the Ilparran Road

Work is currently progressing on the Ilparran Road. 800 metres of the road is being resurfaced, other areas of the road will be graded with gravel. Minor works are being made to several of the bends on the road as well as minor changes to the Gwydir Highway and Ilparran Road junction. These changes are necessary to facilitate the movement of oversize loads on to the project site. An additional new entranceway from the Gwydir Highway to the main construction compound is also underway. It’s anticipated that these works will be completed shortly.

White Rock Solar Farm update

White Rock Solar Farm is a 20 MW solar photovoltaic development that is being proposed adjacent to White Rock Wind Farm. The development would form a pioneering hybrid solar-wind renewable energy facility in the New England Tablelands.

In September 2016, White Rock Solar Farm was awarded a grant from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) large-scale solar competitive funding round. With the award of the ARENA grant, the project can now look towards commencing construction in early 2017 and being fully operational by the end of 2017. The Solar Farm will generate approximately 46,000 MW of electricity in the first year of operation, enough to supply the equivalent of approx. 7,200 average NSW homes.
Transportation of wind turbine components

Approximately 700 oversize loads of turbine components will be travelling from Newcastle, via the New England Highway to White Rock Wind Farm. It is anticipated for transportation to commence in late November 2016 and be ongoing into 2017. These permitted and fully escorted loads will follow a set route and schedule. The route for the local area will be via New England Highway to Heron Street, Hunter Street, Grafton Street, Martin Street, Strathbogie Road, Tuttles Lane, Gwydir Highway and Ilparran Road to the White Rock Wind Farm project site. See the map on the front page of this newsletter for the route. Typically, the loads will travel this route on weekdays between 12:30pm – 3:00pm and some weekdays between 6:00am-7:00am.

White Rock Wind Farm has a comprehensive Traffic and Access Management Plan in place and works closely with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to identify and manage any impacts to local traffic and transport infrastructure arising from the transportation of loads. Please take care when driving in these areas during these times. Please observe all warning and speed restriction signs. If you have any questions or concerns related to the haulage please contact us.

Alternative powerline connection proposal

White Rock Wind Farm is currently undertaking a project modification process with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for an alternative 132 kV overhead powerline route to connect the project to the 330 kV transmission network. The proposed powerline connection would enable full development of White Rock Wind Farm (119 wind turbines).

The proposed powerline route would run approximately 13 km west from the wind farm site to connect to TransGrid’s 330 kV transmission line which runs between Armidale and Dumaresh. The alternative powerline would be the same size and configuration as the original approved powerline, but would be approximately 5 km longer. The permanent physical impact on the ground of the powerline is limited to the foundations for each pole along the powerline route, with concrete poles spaced approximately 200 to 250 m apart. The poles would have a maximum height of 35m. The detailed design for the powerline will be available once finalised.

Ongoing construction at White Rock Wind Farm

Construction of White Rock Wind Farm Stage 1 is continuing to progress at the northern end of the project area, south of the Gwydir Highway. Weather conditions in the region have led to some temporary suspensions of on-site construction activity over the past few months. As the conditions have become more favourable, the construction team is continuing to progress the works in a timely and safe manner.

Stage 1 will consist of 70 wind turbines along with the related civil and electrical infrastructure, with the total capacity of Stage 1 to be 175 megawatts (MW). The project is expected to be fully operational by late-2017.

On-site construction activity

The following works are continuing in the Matheson locality:

• Upgrade to the Gwydir Highway northern site entrance.
• Access track works, including clearance of vegetation, stripping of topsoil and initial cut-and-fill works.
• Excavation of wind turbine foundations in preparation for reinforcement and concrete pour.

Construction work on site takes place during standard construction hours:

• Monday to Friday 7am – 6pm.
• Saturday 8am – 1pm.
• At no time on Sundays or NSW public holidays.

As construction ramps up, some out of hours’ work may be required. For this to occur, approval will be required in accordance with the Project Approval’s out of hours work protocol.

White Rock Wind Farm team aim to keep local disruption to a minimum and apologies if construction activities cause you some inconvenience. Regular updates on construction activities, including what to expect on roads around the site during construction are provided in local paper, White Rock Wind Farm website and radio broadcasts as the project progresses. Construction is expected to continue until late 2017.

FACTS

70 turbines in Stage 1
$30-$40 million into local economy during construction
1.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions saved by 2020*
548 gigawatt hours of electricity produced annually
75,000 homes annually serviced by electricity produced*

* Figures calculated using the NSW Wind Farm Greenhouse Gas Saving Tool on the Office of Environment and Heritage website
Neighbouring wind farms

The abundance of natural resources in the New England Tablelands means that White Rock Wind Farm has two neighbouring wind farms in the local area.

Sapphire Wind Farm
Sapphire Wind Farm, developed by CWP Renewables, comprises 75 wind turbines. The project is located 18 km west of Glen Innes and 28 km east of Inverell to the north of the Gwydir Highway.
Construction of the project is anticipated to commence in late 2016 with site establishment and road formation, and it expected to be completed in June 2018.
Further details are available at the project website: sapphirewindfarm.com.au

Glen Innes Wind Farm
The proposed Glen Innes Wind Farm, by OneWind, is located 12 km west of Glen Innes. It currently consists of up to 25 wind turbines.
The project has received all necessary development approvals.
Construction is expected to start in late 2016.
Further details are available at the project website: onewindaustralia.com

Local Sponsorship

White Rock Wind Farm has sponsored a number of local events in the last few months as part of our strong commitment to having a positive impact in the local community.
In September 2016 we sponsored the annual business awards for both Glen Innes and Armidale. For the Glen Innes Examiner Business Awards, we sponsored the award categories of Best Team Customer Service and New Business of the Year. For the Armidale Business Awards, we sponsored the category of Excellence in Sustainability. White Rock Wind Farm representatives at both events were thoroughly impressed by the calibre of the nominees across all categories and would like to congratulate all award winners.
We are also pleased to have had the opportunity to provide financial assistance to the following recent initiatives and events in the local area:

- Glen Innes Photo Create Spring Show
- Friends of the Celtic Festival
- Ashford Salami Festival
- Glen Innes Community Charity Debutante Ball
- Art on the Corner Drawing Together program
- Inverell and District Soccer Association
- Inverell Art Gallery – Art Prize, and
- Glen Innes RSL Sub-Branch Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other Mental Health Disorders Health Professional Seminar.

How can I find out more?
You can contact the project team at any time using the contact details below.
We welcome comments and suggestions and are happy to talk through details of the project at any stage. If you would like to meet in person, please drop into the local shop front.

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