

MEDIA RELEASE

Vodafone switches on first Mobile Black Spot site at White Rock Wind Farm

Delivering increased mobile coverage and choice to New England region

Monday, 21 December 2015 –Vodafone today switched on its first Mobile Black Spot site at White Rock Wind Farm near Glen Innes in the New England region of New South Wales.

With the support Goldwind and the Federal, State and Local governments, Vodafone's new site delivers increased coverage and choice of provider to local residents, businesses, farmers and landowners of Glen Innes and surrounding areas.

Vodafone Chief Executive Officer Inaki Berroeta and Goldwind Managing Director John Titchen were joined by Barnaby Joyce MP, John Barilaro MP, Adam Marshall, MP, the Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Colin Price, the Mayor of Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon and councillors to announce the delivery of the first of 18 sites Vodafone is building in the region in the first round of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Programme.

Mr Berroeta said the site, located at White Rock Wind Farm, not only provides coverage in the surrounding area but extends to six other mobile blacks spot areas identified in the programme.

"This tower will deliver reliable coverage and choice of provider for the first time for many locals, and that's a great outcome," said Mr Berroeta.

Goldwind Managing Director John Titchen said, "The mobile tower is a great example of the White Rock Wind Farm providing benefits to the local community. Local businesses are involved in the construction of the mobile tower and will continue to benefit once the wind farm construction stage commences."

"The tower will provide mobile phone coverage for construction workers, meaning a safer work site and enabling the day-to-day functioning of the site," said Mr Titchen.

Mr Berroeta said the new site, built with the support of the White Rock Wind Farm owners Goldwind Australia, is a great example of different parties working together to fast track development and deliver positive outcomes for the local community.

“In just four months, we’ve been able to light up a mobile black spot area. This is a great example of how a collaborative approach to mobile coverage can make a real difference to local communities and deliver the choice and opportunities they deserve.”

The site at White Rock Wind Farm is the first of 70 new or upgraded base stations being rolled out by Vodafone across Australia in partnership with federal, state and local governments, and local communities as part of the programme.

“For too long, many regional Australians including those in the New England area have missed out on the benefits of coverage and choice of provider that customers living in cities have long-enjoyed,” said Mr Berroeta.

Vodafone’s new site at White Rock Wind Farm builds on the company’s long-term commitment to the New England region, which includes a \$4.5 million investment in the area to expand mobile coverage by over 2,000 square kilometres under the programme, and the recent opening of a store at Armidale.

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Notes to editors:

White Rock Wind Farm is located in the New England region approximately 24km west of Glen Innes and 47 km east of Inverell. The NSW Government has approved construction and operation of up to 119 wind turbines at the White Rock Wind Farm owned by Goldwind Australia. Stage 1 of the project will consist of 70 wind turbines, producing 175 MW of renewable electricity which is enough to power 75,000 homes annually. When the wind farm is operational in 2017, the mobile base station will be powered by electricity generated on site.

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Media contacts

Michelle Quint 0450 326 070 michelle.quint@vodafone.com.au

Yalin Tang 0417 875 362 yalintang@goldwindaustralia.com