

2.5 Media releases

EPURON begins investigations of new wind farm site

Sydney, July 23, 2007: EPURON has commenced investigation into the feasibility of a wind farm at the Gullen Range, south of Crookwell in the NSW Southern Tablelands.

Wind investigations at this site, extending from Kialla and Bannister to Gurrundah, were commenced by Marubeni Corporation in 2002, however EPURON acquired the monitoring masts in April 2006. Initial assessment shows strong and consistent local wind speeds along the ridge are suitable for wind energy generation. The current investigation activities will enable EPURON to determine the wind farm configuration including turbine numbers and locations.

“With careful consideration and planning, EPURON believes the wind farm can be developed with positive benefits to the environment and community.” Project Director Simon Davey said.

EPURON values the input of the local community, the Council and other stakeholders in the planning of this project. Community consultation, at each stage of the process, will be incorporated into the project and this will include newsletters, open houses and media releases. The wind farm will be assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Protection and Assessment Act, therefore the relevant consent authority is the NSW Minister for Planning.

Investigations will include background noise measurements, flora and fauna (including bird and bat) investigations, assessment of aboriginal and European heritage values, visual impact studies (including photomontages to show what the wind farm might look like) and traffic and communications studies.

Wind farms are good news for the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and taking pressure off power stations that are suffering under drought and water shortages. They also bring jobs and investment to rural and regional NSW.

“By bringing forward this new project, not only do we ensure that this investment occurs within NSW, we also provide the capacity for a region like the Southern Tablelands to establish ongoing, long term, sustainable jobs through related service, construction and manufacturing industries.” Executive Director Andrew Durran said.

If the project proceeds, EPURON will establish a significant community fund to broaden the benefits flowing from the project within the local community.

Background

EPURON has received planning approvals for three projects at Snowy Plains (30 Megawatts, near Berridale), Cullerin Range (30 Megawatts, near Goulburn) and Conroy's Gap (30 Megawatts, near Yass).

The NSW Government has recently announced a new renewable energy target, requiring 10% of electricity use in NSW to come from renewable energy by 2010 and 15% by 2020. Legislation for this target was presented in Parliament in June 2007. The current level of renewable energy in NSW is around 7-8%.

About EPURON

In 2005, Taurus Energy, which has been exploring wind resources in NSW since 2002, became part of EPURON.

EPURON GmbH is one of the world's leading project development and structured financing companies in the renewable energy sector. The company develops, finances, implements and operates solar and wind farms, solar thermal power stations as well as biogas and bio-ethanol plants.

Since its foundation in 1998, EPURON has financed and implemented over 60 large scale projects with a total capital cost of over 550 million euros. Its clients include institutional and private investors from many countries.

EPURON has subsidiaries or offices in Australia, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, South Korea, India, Singapore, Brazil and the USA. EPURON is a part of the listed company Conergy AG, the world's market leader in solar power systems.

For further information about EPURON, please visit www.epuron.com.au or contact:

Martin Poole, Executive Director, phone 0411 159 114
Andrew Durran, Executive Director, phone 0407 206 199
Simon Davey, Project Director, phone 0405 735 260

EPURON takes first steps in Gullen Range project

Sydney, September 5, 2007: EPURON has now submitted a Project Application to the Department of Planning seeking its requirements for the Environmental Assessment of the project.

The Project Application is the first stage of the project approval process. It outlines the project under consideration sufficiently to allow the Department of Planning to specify its requirements in relation to EPURON's Environmental Assessment. The Project Application can be found on the Department of Planning website at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/register.asp>

The Project Application was lodged following a Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) which was held on-site on the 15th of August. The PFM is a forum that enables relevant government agencies to provide input to the Department of Planning in formulating the environmental assessment requirements for the proposal. At Gullen Range, the PFM included representatives from the Department of Planning, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Mulwaree Councils, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Rural Fire Service, Department of Lands, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, and Country Energy.

Preliminary environmental investigations at the site have commenced and include background noise measurements, flora and fauna (including bird and bat) investigations, assessment of aboriginal and European heritage values, visual impact studies and traffic and communications studies. The results of these studies will enable Epuron to detail a more comprehensive proposal (including the number and location of turbines, electricity connections and access roads) that is responsive to the site's constraints.

Following on from this preliminary work, EPURON will be in a position to develop its initial proposal for presentation to the local community. In particular, the community will be invited to an Open House later this year, as soon as sufficient details on the project have been developed. This Open House will provide details of proposed turbine locations, and results of planning work to date including noise assessment, visual impact assessment and flora and fauna assessments.

The aim of the Open House is to ensure that the community understands the proposal as presented, and to ensure that EPURON can learn any unforeseen impacts in relation to the project.

"The choice of this site for development has been the culmination of a long selection process with many years of wind monitoring to support it", Project Director Simon Davey said. "Our aim through our community consultation and in particular the Open House is to ensure that EPURON develops the best wind farm that it can in this location."

The Director General of the NSW Department of Planning will shortly prepare its requirements and issue these to EPURON. Once these requirements have been issued, EPURON will

commence preparation of the Environmental Assessment which will be lodged together with the Development Application. The final Environmental Assessment will also be placed on public display by EPURON and the Department of Planning who will seek final submissions on the proposal.

Background

EPURON has received planning approvals for three projects in NSW to date: Snowy Plains (30 Megawatts, near Berridale), Cullerin Range (30 Megawatts, near Goulburn) and Conroy's Gap (30 Megawatts, near Yass).

The NSW Government has recently announced a new renewable energy target, requiring 10% of electricity use in NSW to come from renewable energy by 2010 and 15% by 2020. Legislation for this target was presented in Parliament in June 2007. The current level of renewable energy in NSW is around 7-8%.

The Gullen Range project will be assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 which provides a consolidated assessment and approval regime by the State Government with input from Council.

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Local Communities Embrace Wind Farms

Sydney, October 4, 2007: A new study has found communities in the NSW Southern Tablelands are overwhelmingly supportive of wind farm projects to combat global warming.

The survey of 300 people in the Goulburn – Crookwell – Yass areas found 89 per cent of local residents were in favour of wind farms being developed in the Southern Tablelands, including 51 per cent who were strongly in favour, Epuron Executive Director Andrew Durran said today.

Mr Durran said the region includes an existing wind farm at Crookwell and contains sites for the majority of proposed wind farms in NSW so those surveyed were clearly well informed about the realities of wind energy projects.

“What we have found is an overwhelming majority of people - 96 per cent - view wind energy favourably, particularly in the face of widespread concern about the threat of global warming,” Mr Durran said.

“Furthermore, 83 per cent of people agree they would be happy to see a wind farm built on farm land near where they live. In fact, 71 per cent of people favoured a wind farm located just 1km from their home. These are people who are already living close to wind farm projects and well publicised proposed projects.”

Mr Durran said NSW is the best location in Australia for wind energy, with excellent wind speeds, a strong transmission system, high base-load energy prices and the largest energy demand in the country.

Epuron has a wind monitoring network across NSW on sites identified for their wind farm development potential. These monitoring sites show excellent wind speeds in NSW, with wind speeds of up to 9m/s at hub height.

“This is an excellent resource on a world-wide basis, better than most Victorian wind farm sites and comparable with sites found in Tasmania and South Australia,” Mr Durran said.

Mr Durran said other key findings from the study included:

- **91 per cent agree we need to use wind power as a source of clean energy, even if it means changing the appearance of some landscapes**
- **67 per cent of people who had seen a wind farm found them to be visually appealing (only 15 per cent did not)**
- **90 per cent of people had seen a wind farm**
- **92 per cent agree Australia should be investing more in wind energy**

REARK Research undertook the survey by phoning 300 randomly selected residents in the Southern Tablelands.

Epuron is a leading NSW renewable energy developer with wind power projects under active development equating to 7–8% of NSW’s energy demand and a capital investment in regional NSW of approx \$4.2 billion.

Media: Andrew Bradley, Wilkinson Media, 02 8001 8888; 0403 777 137

EPURON Pty Ltd is a renewable energy company based in North Sydney. EPURON is working on several wind farm projects in NSW with three projects totalling 90MW having received development consent and more in the pipeline. EPURON owns and operates one of the largest networks of wind monitoring masts in NSW, providing an enhanced understanding of the wind resource around the state. As well as wind projects, EPURON is actively developing a pipeline of utility scale solar thermal projects throughout Australia. Founded in 2003, EPURON has been the Australian subsidiary of EPURON GmbH of Hamburg since mid 2005. EPURON is a part of the listed company Conergy AG, the world's market leader in solar power systems.

EPURON

WIND FARM INFORMATION DAY

EPURON is proposing a wind farm at Gullen Range, approximately 6km south of Crookwell and 25km north west of Goulburn.

We're holding an open house in Grabben Gullen for the local community. It will allow you to learn more about the proposal, provide input and ask any questions.

Date: Wednesday 21st November, 2007

Time: 2pm-7pm (drop in any time)

**Place: Grabben Gullen Hall
Camp St, Grabben Gullen**

**For further details, please contact:
Brooke Marshall, Ph: 6494 7771**