

CHAPTER 2

Introduction

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Proposal

The Proponent is proposing to install, operate and maintain up to 125 wind turbines and ancillary structures on an area of the high altitude plateau of the Monaro Plains, approximately 6 kilometres (km) west of the township of Nimmitabel (**Figure 2.1**); the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm.

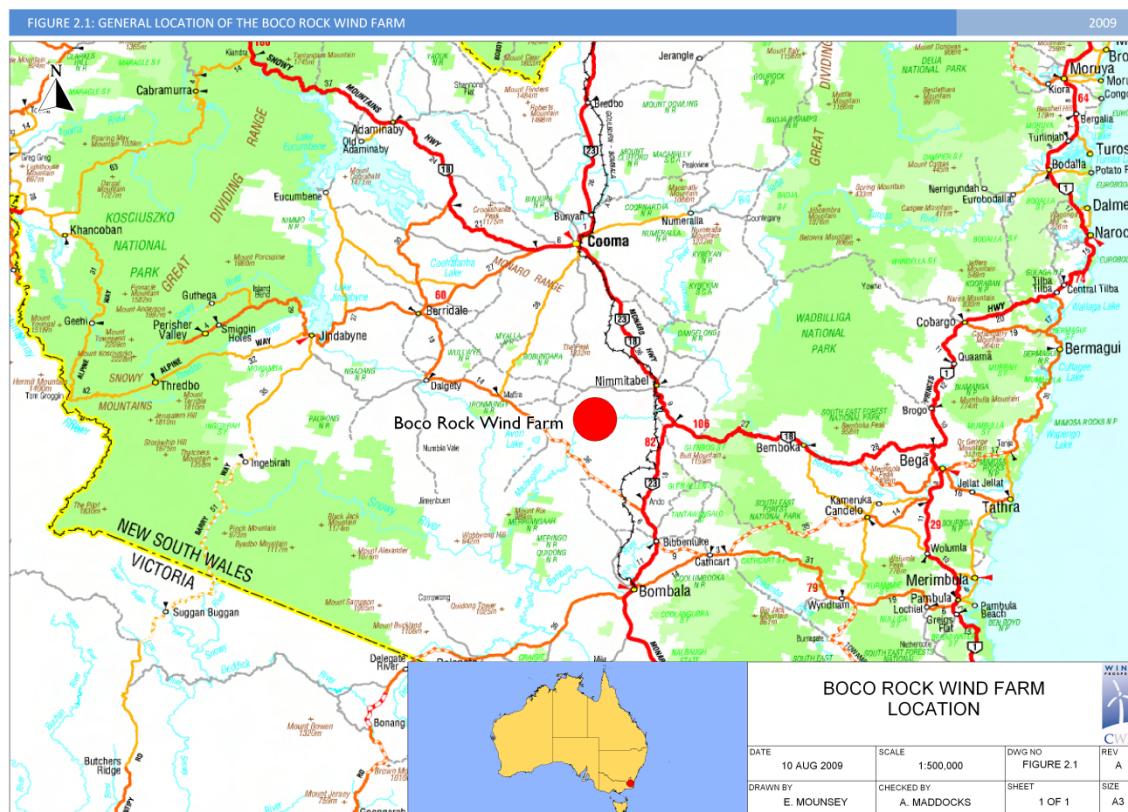


Figure 2.1 General location of the Boco Rock Wind Farm
(An A3 size version of this Figure is displayed in Volume 2)

The proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm (the Project) lies within the Bombala and Cooma-Monaro Shire Council boundaries, in the southern region of New South Wales (NSW). The turbines will be erected for the purpose of generating electricity from wind energy.

The Project was publicly announced in September 2008, at the commencement of detailed feasibility studies. The results of public consultations and feasibility assessments are presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA), as part of the Development Application (DA) for the Project.

The purpose of the EA is to support the DA associated with the construction and operation of the Project, including:

- Construction and operation of up to 125 turbines;
- Construction of access tracks, hardstand areas and other associated on-site infrastructure; and
- On-site electrical connections and infrastructure, including an on-site switchyard and substation.

The EA may also be used in support of subsequent applications for approval under Section 78A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* associated with the lease of land for the turbine sites and associated infrastructure.

The Project will also be assessed by the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) with respect to matters of National Environmental Significance under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

2.2 The Proponent

The Project is being developed by Boco Rock Wind Farm Pty Ltd (the Proponent), a wholly owned subsidiary of Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd (WPCWP). WPCWP is a joint venture partnership between the Wind Prospect Group and Continental Wind Partners (CWP).

The Wind Prospect Group is a progressive global organisation that is responsible for the development, construction and operation of renewable energy projects in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Canada, Ireland, France and the USA. Wind Prospect has over 18 years of experience in successful development in the industry and has been involved in over 2,500 megawatt (MW) of approved wind generation (both onshore and offshore) with 380 MW under construction or in operation throughout Australia.

Wind Prospect have no proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against them and operate under the following environmental policies:

- Environmental Policy
- Carbon Neutral Policy
- Project-specific Environmental Management Plans

Continental Wind Partners were established in 2007 to finance the development of wind farms in Romania and Poland. They have since grown to be a leader in renewable energy development, expanding into the rest of Europe, Australia and New Zealand; with projects totalling over 4500MW. Their primary focus remains in wind energy, however they also have interests in solar, hydro, biomass and other renewable energies.

Their successful and rapid expansion is based on a proven model of co-operation with local developers. Here CWP's international expertise in the finance/banking industry and technical aspects of development are combined with the developers own technical expertise and local knowledge. It is this collaborative partnership that ensures accelerated, professional wind development in a mutually successful manner.

2.3 Form and Content of the Environmental Assessment

This EA has been prepared to provide a Project description, discuss all potential effects of the Project on the existing environment and community, and describe the measures proposed to mitigate any potential adverse effects.

The EA has been prepared in three volumes, and comprises:

- Volume 1 – Main Text (this volume)
- Volume 2 – Figures and Photomontages
- Volume 3 – Appendices

NOTE: The subject matter of this report involves the use of technical words, units and terms with which the reader may be unfamiliar. A glossary and list of unit conversion factors has been included in **Chapter 22** and reference to this may be of assistance.

An outline of the contents of **Volume 1** (this chapter) is provided below:

Chapters 1-6 provide an executive summary and description of the Project. They also outline Project justification, planning context and a summary of the public consultation process.

Chapters 7-19 contain the bulk of the EA for the Project. They describe:

- The existing physical, ecological and social environment of the region;
- Impact assessment information; and
- Impact mitigation measures.

Chapter 20 provides an outline of the Environmental Management activities relating to the Project incorporated into a Statement of Commitments.

Chapter 21-24 concludes the EA, summarises key assessment personnel that have assisted in compiling the Boco Rock Wind Farm EA and provides references made throughout the document.

2.4 Proposed Transmission Line

An assessment of the proposed connection of the Boco Rock Wind Farm to the existing electricity network is subject to a separate Approval process (see **Chapter 3** Project Description).

However information on the siting and likely impacts of the transmission line have been presented in this EA to demonstrate that the cumulative impacts of the development as a whole is acceptable and justified.

Sections relating to the proposed transmission line can be found at the end of each of the forthcoming chapters and are distinguished by means of grey shading (as with this section) to highlight for the reader the detachment between what is being sought Approval and that which is not.