

UNION FENOSA
WIND AUSTRALIA



PALING YARDS WIND FARM
APPENDIX 15
NEWSLETTER



PALING YARDS WIND FARM

Introduction

This is the first newsletter for the proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm. It is intended to inform the local community and interested stakeholders about key elements of the project, the site, and the steps in the upcoming planning process. This newsletter outlines the community engagement strategy that will be undertaken including details of an upcoming door knock in the local area. Subsequent newsletters will be distributed at key milestones of the project to keep interested community members informed and up-to-date.

Union Fenosa Wind Australia (UFWA) is undertaking the preliminary stages of the wind farm project. UFWA is part of an international energy group called gasNatural fenosa, which is a leading vertically integrated gas and electricity group that has a presence in 23 countries. It employs over 20,000 staff with 17,000 MW of installed electricity generation and has more than 20 million customers. It has a long history of successful renewable energy projects around the world, building more than 2,000 MW of green energy capacity across wind, solar, hydro, biomass and other renewable energy sources.



Project Overview

The Paling Yards site consists of approximately 3,900 hectares of undulating and hilly land bisected by Taralga/Abercrombie Road (refer Site Context Plan). It is located approximately 30 kilometers north of Traralga, and 60 kilometers south of Oberon. To the west is the Abercrombie River National Park and to the east is the Mount Werong State Forest.

The project is proposed to include;

- Up to 60 individual wind turbines standing up to 175m at top of blade top with a capacity of up to 3.4MW each;
- Access tracks;
- Upgrades to local road infrastructure including up to six access points from Abercrombie Road;
- A temporary batching plant to supply concrete for the foundations of the turbines and other associated structures;
- Obstacle lighting to selected turbines (if deemed necessary);
- Wind farm and substation control room and facilities buildings; and
- An electrical substation and overland connection to transmission lines.

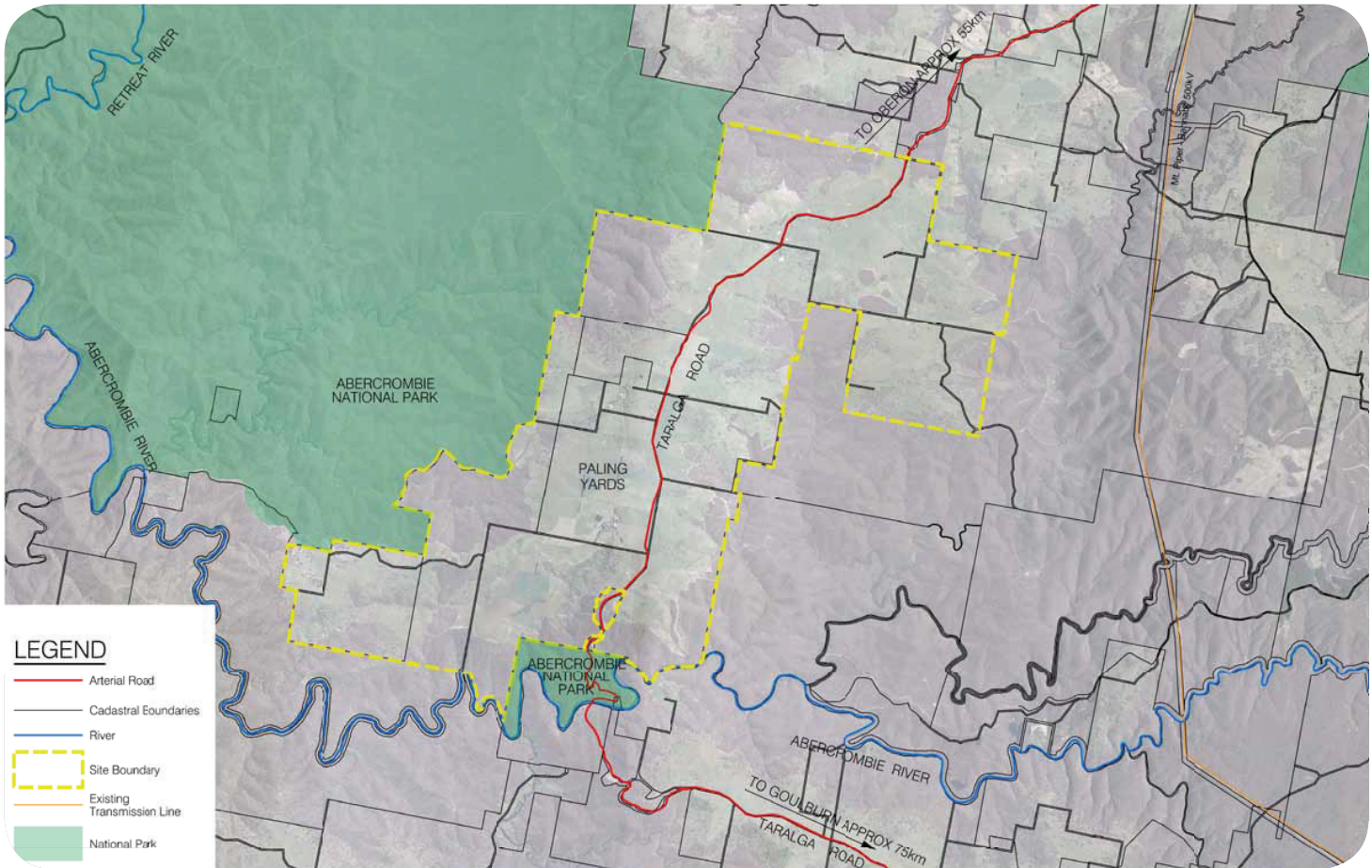
UFWA is investigating four options for overland connection to the transmission lines.

Three options exist for a 55km overland transmission line connection to the approved Crookwell 2 Wind Farm substation which connects to the Yass to Bannaby 330kV transmission line. These options are shown on the Transmission Line Plan as Options 1, 2 and 3.

Alternatively, an overland connection to the Mt Piper to Bannaby 500kV transmission line which bypasses the north east of the site is being investigated and is shown as Option 4. This option travels along Taralga/Abercrombie Road to join the transmission line approximately 6 kms from the subject site.

The transmission line involves a single pole (approximately 35m in height), made of concrete or steel, supporting up to two circuits with several conductors in each circuit. The distance between the poles depends on the underlying site conditions but will be approximately 200m.





Site Context Plan

Project Status and Planning Process

The Environmental Assessment and Approval Process comprises the following steps:

- Prepare Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Project Application
- Environmental Assessment Requirements (EAR's) issued
- UFWA prepares and submit Environmental Assessment (EA) reports
- EA Adequacy Review
- Address Government feedback
- EA Exhibited Publicity for 30 days (including information day)
- UFWA respond to submissions
- Ministerial or Planning Assessment Commission Determination

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in 2009-2010 which includes preliminary details about the site and proposal (available on www.unionfenosa.com.au). The PEA informed the

Environmental Assessment Requirements (EARs) issued by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure outlining the issues to be addressed by a full Environmental Assessment (EA).

The next step is to prepare an EA for the proposed wind farm, which includes a comprehensive consultation process with the stakeholders. This involves specialist investigations to assess the potential impacts of the project and recommend mitigation measures.

The assessments include:

- Flora and Fauna;
- Noise;
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Shadow Flicker;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Aviation;
- Electromagnetic interference (telecommunications);
- Cultural Heritage;
- Social and economic benefits and impacts;
- Geotechnical;

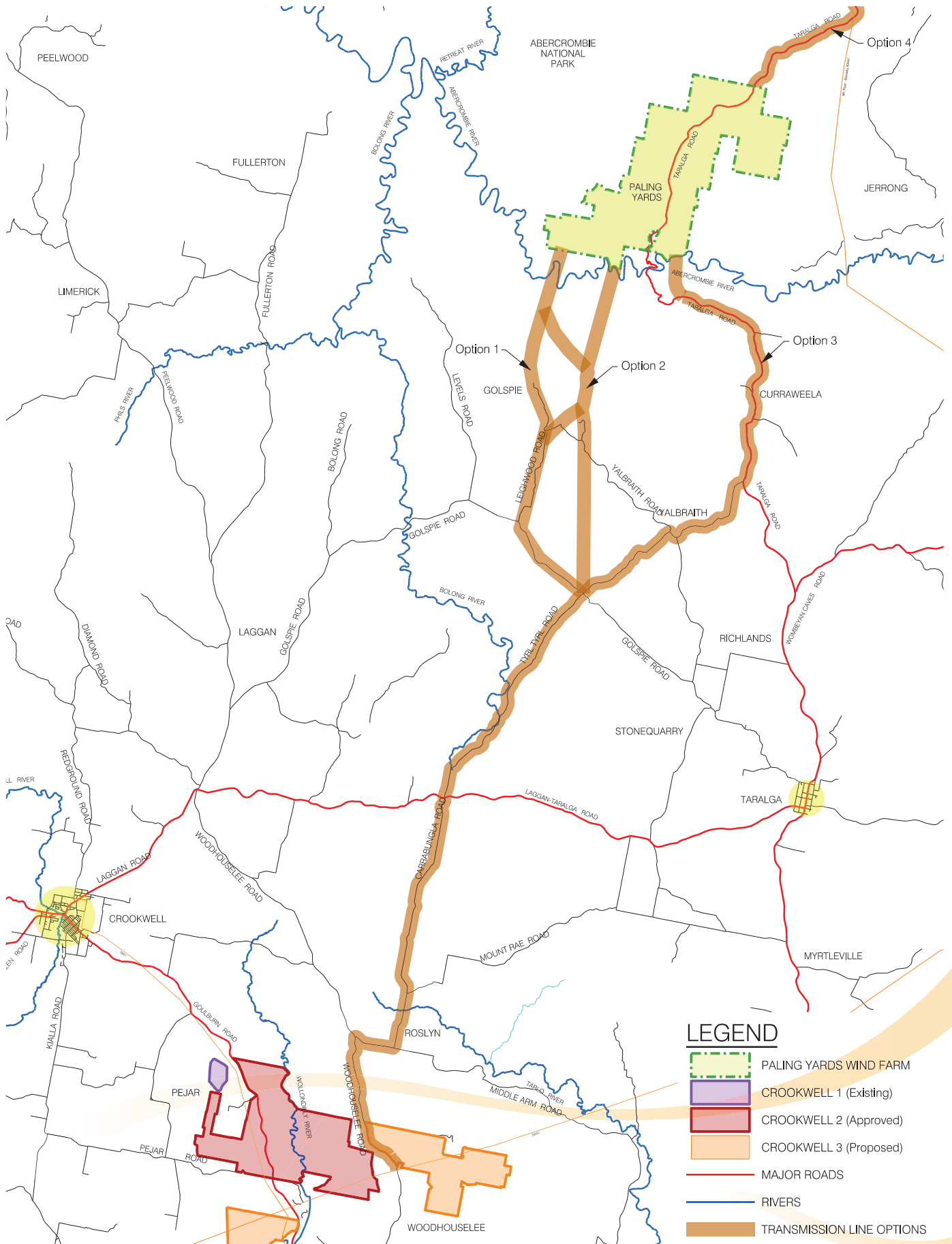
- Hydrological
- Other potential hazards

UFWA seeks to better understand and address these issues and has commissioned specialists to investigate each and prepare reports. UFWA is also seeking community feedback regarding these issues to better understand how to address community expectations.

The investigation phase, together with the feedback from the community consultation, will assist in proposing a balanced wind farm design that will be included in the EA which incorporates optimal placement of the infrastructure for a viable project while reducing the impact to the environment and stakeholders. It is envisaged that the EA will be lodged with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in October this year.

Once lodged, the EA will be assessed by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. This assessment will include a period of public exhibition where interested stakeholders are invited to make a submission to the project.





Community Engagement

UFWA is committed to providing stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the approval process of the proposed wind farm and to shape the final project. As such, a detailed community engagement strategy is being prepared to ensure that members of the community are fully informed and to gather feedback which will influence the final design of the project. As a member of the community you will have several opportunities to be involved in the decision making process.

Some of the opportunities include:

- One to one door knock meetings
- Community information day
- Formal written submissions to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Website inquiry form, phone, email and written inquires

Door Knock

As part of the community engagement strategy, a door knock of the local area will be conducted by UFWA representatives on the 30-31st of May and 1st of June 2011. All identified houses close to the wind farm and along the proposed transmission line options will be visited.

The door knock is a significant initiative that will help UFWA understand what issues are important in the local area, and will contribute to the design of the wind farm. Residents are invited to ask questions or comment on the proposed wind farm. Your feedback in these one to one meetings will be taken into consideration in the development of the overall design and inform the Environmental Assessment for the project.

We encourage residents who would like a visit to contact UFWA and make an appointment for a suitable time. Regardless of whether an appointment is made, all houses within a 5km radius of the proposed wind farm will be visited.

If you have any questions or are interested in setting up an appointment, please call 1800 457 181.



Community Information Day

A Community Information Day is proposed to be held during the exhibition period to provide further opportunity for the local community and stakeholders to ask questions about the proposal. The Information Day will be held over an afternoon and will include presentation boards containing key information on the project. Members of the consultant team will be available to answer any questions and explain key aspects of the proposed wind farm. Dates for the information day are to be confirmed and will be advised closer to the date.

How to stay informed

UFWA aims to keep you informed about the proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm with newsletters such as this one. If you have questions or would like to be informed of updates in a different way, please contact:



Address: **Suite 4.03, 68 York Street Sydney NSW 2000**

Phone: **Free Call No. 1800-457-181**

Email: **info@unionfenosa.com.au**

Internet: **http://www.unionfenosa.com.au/project_py.htm**