

# Flyers Creek

## WIND FARM

### Environmental Assessment

#### CHAPTER 6 Consultation



## 6. Consultation

This chapter of the Environmental Assessment outlines the nature and extent of consultation undertaken for this project and the issues that have been identified from the consultation. The issues raised during the consultation process have been seriously considered, and to the extent practicable the identified issues have been addressed by this Environmental Assessment as described in the following sections.

### 6.1 Introduction

FCWF understands the benefits and the need to implement an effective program of community consultation as part of the development process, and has:

- Identified stakeholder groups
- Provided stakeholders with information that explains the nature of the development, its potential impacts and contact details for FCWF
- Sought the input of the local community, particularly their expectations and perceptions of the proposed development
- Considered issues raised during consultation and where practicable incorporated measures within the management of the project to address community issues as they arise

Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd's community consultation program integrates practical communication activities at various stages of the development to ensure an exchange of information with the community. The timing, nature and extent of the consultation is reviewed progressively. Advice has also been sought from Blayney Shire Council as to the status of any community issues and the appropriateness of the various consultation options and their timing.

### 6.2 Stakeholders

Planning for the development of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm has included specific consultation with the stakeholders listed in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 – Stakeholders consulted as part of the planning process**

Sector	Organisation or Group
Local Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landowners of the properties on which wind farm will be developed</li><li>• Neighbouring landowners within 3 kilometres of the wind farm</li><li>• Blayney Shire community through project information days</li><li>• Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council and other Indigenous stakeholders</li><li>• Local electronic media, Central Western Daily, Blayney Chronicle, TV coverage</li><li>• Orange Chamber of Commerce</li></ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blayney Shire Council</li><li>• Orange City Council</li><li>• Cabonne Council</li></ul>

Sector	Organisation or Group
NSW Government Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Planning (Approval Authority)</li> <li>• Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW)</li> <li>• Country Energy</li> <li>• Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)</li> <li>• Land and Property Management Authority</li> <li>• Rural Fire Service (RFS)</li> <li>• Department of Industry and Investment (Forestry, Mining and Agriculture)</li> <li>• Industry Capability Network</li> <li>• TransGrid</li> <li>• Lachlan Catchment Management Authority</li> </ul>
Federal Government Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER)</li> <li>• Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (previously DEWHA)</li> <li>• Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)</li> <li>• Airservices Australia (AsA)</li> <li>• Department of Defence</li> </ul>
Other Stakeholder Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crown Castle/Optus</li> <li>• Telstra</li> <li>• Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA)</li> <li>• APA Gas pipeline operator</li> <li>• Newcrest Mining Ltd</li> <li>• Goldminco Corporation</li> </ul>

Engagement of stakeholders and provision of information about the project has involved the following communications:

- Telephone discussions and emails beginning in the early planning stages
- Two front page articles in the Central West Daily in the early stages of the project<sup>1</sup>
- One-on-one meetings with the closer neighbours to the project as planning progressed
- Project Overview mail-out to local residences and other stakeholders
- Information days at Tallwood Hall on 19 & 20 November 2010 and collection of written responses from individuals attending the event
- Provision of project information at the information days
- Media interviews by the proponent

The consultation methods have varied with the stage of planning, the stakeholders involved (Table 6.1) and the nature of their concerns. Section 6.3 outlines the various stages of consultation undertaken for the project including the methodologies.

Overall, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd has aimed to make information available to stakeholders, as it becomes sufficiently developed to enable meaningful discussion and has sought input from stakeholders to guide the planning of the wind farm. The consultation process will be continued throughout the development and operation of the wind farm.

<sup>1</sup> The two articles appear as Appendix 6-1 of this Chapter

### 6.3 Stages of consultation

Community consultation for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm project has involved communication with the range of identified stakeholders indicated in Table 6.1. Specific components of the consultation undertaken are shown in Table 6.2. The timing of the consultation has related to the progress of planning for the project and the project details available. Preliminary planning has involved securing access to suitable land areas and the development of a conceptual plan for the project.

**Table 6.2 – Flyers Creek Wind Farm: Key stages of consultation**

Approx. timing	Stakeholder group	Nature of consultation
2008	Wind farm landowners	Negotiations for lease agreements
2008	Community	Three 80m meteorological masts installed at the project area potentially visible to nearby neighbours
2008 & 2009	Community	Front page newspaper articles in the CWD about planning for a wind farm in the project locality
24 October 2008	NSW Department of Planning	Project classified as subject to Part 3A
19 November 2008	Blayney Council and relevant State Government Agencies	Planning Focus Meeting – Presentation on project and potential impacts, site inspection and review of potential assessment requirements
15 December 2008	Department of Planning and NSW government referral agencies	Project Application to NSW Department of Planning
December 2008 and January 2009	NSW government referral agencies	Responses to Project Application from the Commonwealth (DEHWA) and NSW Departments of DECC, DPI-Forestry and DWE.
19 January 2009	NSW Department of Planning	Director-General's requirements issued for the Environmental Assessment
2008 to 2010	Country Energy	Initial Connection Application, studies and discussions with regards to grid connection
2008 to 2010	Cadia Valley Operations/Newcrest Mining	Discussions in respect to grid connection and exploration licenses over the project site
2009 to 2010	Goldminco	Discussions with regards to their exploration license for part of the project site
2008 to 2010	Blayney Shire Council	Meetings and correspondence to provide project updates and discuss traffic and transport issues
2008 to 2010	Orange City Council	Overview of the project, and in particular any effect to operations at Orange aerodrome
September to October 2010	Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council & Traditional Owners	Involvement in archaeological and cultural heritage survey
November 2010	Neighbours to wind farm site within about 3 kilometres	Notifications to explain the proposed development and its potential impacts. Invitation to Information days to identify any concerns that neighbours may have
2008-2010	Optus/Crown Castle Telstra	Liaison regarding turbine placement relative to Crown Castle/Optus communications facility on Hope Hill
January 2011	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	Advice to CASA of the proposed location of the wind farm and details of height of structures.
October 2010	Airservices Australia (AsA)	Advised AsA of the location of the wind farm and detail of structures. Sought comment on the proposal.

Approx. timing	Stakeholder group	Nature of consultation
2009-2010	Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia	Correspondence with AAAA regarding proposed wind farm and identification of AAAA issues for wind farms and transmission lines.
2009-2010	DECCW (NPWS)	Response to Project Application in Jan 2009, Flora and Fauna and archaeological records reviewed
2009-2010	Department of Primary Industries	Discussions regarding locations of Exploration Licenses. GIS mapping data obtained.
2010	Orange Chamber of Commerce	Provided an overview of the Project and sought comments
2009 & 2010	Industry Capabilities Network	Discussions and plans to maximise involvement of local contractors and businesses in the project
19 & 20 November 2010	Local community	Two information days at Tallwood Community Hall and including distribution of project brochure
February 2011	NSW Department of Planning and Proponent	Submission of Environmental Assessment and updated Project Application to NSW Department of Planning
February 2011	Roads and Traffic Authority	Roads and Traffic Authority Advised requirements for the project development
<b>Future 2011 and beyond</b>		
Exhibition of Project Application and Environmental Assessment	Department of Planning, Council, Community and other interested stakeholders	Notification and Advertising of Public Exhibition Exhibition of Environmental Assessment Environmental Assessment reviewed by stakeholders
	Interested stakeholders	Submissions to Department of Planning during exhibition period
	Community	Updates on progress of planning and any variations to proposal
Agency review	Government Agencies	EA reviewed by Government Agencies and their responses provided to Department of Planning
Determination	Department of Planning	Review of all submissions and issues by Department of Planning and determination by Minister for Planning
Construction Late 2012	Local community	Notification of commencement of construction works (should the project be approved)  Periodic update newsletters circulated in local paper and radio announcements as required
Operation Late 2013/2014	Local community	Notification of commencement of operations together with contact details for operator.  Periodic update newsletters circulated in local paper and radio announcements as required



### 6.3.1 Earlier Stages of Consultation

During 2008, consultation was primarily directed towards the project scoping and identifying the main planning constraints. This stage included negotiations with landowners to gain access to suitable properties. Access agreements were progressively negotiated with participating landowners and a sufficient number of agreements were concluded to provide confidence that the necessary lands would be available for a viable project. Landowners were asked to advise the proponent of any neighbours who had an interest in learning more about the project, whether wanting to participate in the project or whether they had concerns or questions about the proposed wind farms and this has continued to occur. Neighbours interested in potentially participating in the project were contacted by the proponent as were neighbours who had concerns about the potential amenity impacts of the project.

Discussions with key State and Local Government agencies including the Blayney Shire and Orange City Councils also occurred in 2008. The aforementioned front page article in the Central West Daily, introducing the project to the community, was published in September, 2008.


A Planning Focus Meeting on 19 November 2008 brought together relevant State government agencies to assist formulation of assessment criteria for the project and to inform the proponent of key issues of interest for respective government agencies. Following the Planning Focus Meeting and subsequent submission of a Project Application and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, the Director-General's requirements for the Environmental Assessment were issued on 19 January 2009.

Approaches to neighbours and the broader community commenced from early 2009, once FCWF was able to present a reasonably clear picture of the scope of the development to these stakeholders and as the environmental studies were initiated. Neighbouring residences were progressively visited by the Project Manager to ensure that the respective occupants were aware of the proposed development, its potential impacts and to provide an opportunity for neighbours to seek further details if they required them. This consultation was based on the initial design of the project as well as outlining the approval process and its timing. In all, over 30 neighbouring residences were personally contacted and offered the opportunity to meet with the Development Project Manager. A number of close neighbours to the project indicated strong support for the project during a phone call, and said that a one-to-one meeting was not needed.

Once sufficient wind data was accumulated in early 2010, a wind resource assessment was commissioned with long term correlation of the three on-site wind masts to the Orange Aerodrome Bureau of Meteorology station. After this analysis was completed, an assessment was made with regards to the potential to add neighbouring properties, including those neighbours who had indicated an interest to the proponent in participating in the wind project. On the basis of this analysis, four landowners were added to the project. A preliminary wind turbine layout was then completed in Q3 of 2010 which then enabled further technical studies, such as a noise prediction and noise assessment to take place.

### 6.3.2 Community Information Days

To engage the broader local community and to extend the consultation with more neighbours, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd held two information days at the Tallwood Community Hall, which is close to the project area, on 19 & 20 November 2010. Neighbours within three kilometres of a proposed wind turbine were invited by direct mail. A brochure was prepared and provided in the mail-out as an overview of the project, potential impacts and the status of the planning and approvals process. A copy is provided at the end of this Chapter (Appendix 6-3). In addition, emails and letters were sent to various stakeholders advising of them of the Community Information days. Multiple advertisements were placed in both the Central West Daily and Blayney Chronicle during the two weeks prior notifying the broader community of the Information Days and providing contact details of the proponent. The Central West Daily, Blayney Chronicle and Local ABC Radio were telephoned, provided information about the Information Days, and encouraged to run stories before, and after the event.



The objective of the Community Information Days is to provide detailed information on the proposed project, answer questions about the project design, and to obtain feedback and understand further issues of relevance to neighbours not obtained during the one-to-one meetings conducted earlier. Large A0 poster displays were placed on the walls and tables within the hall providing very detailed information regarding the wind farm proposal. Posters were on display providing the following information:

- Overview of Infigen Energy (parent company of Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd)
- Renewable Energy, in general
- Global Warming
- Flyers Creek Project Overview
- Locality map of the project
- Wind Turbine and Track layout
- Wind Turbine and Electrical layout
- Zone of Visual Influence Map including points where Photomontage photos were taken
- Five Photomontages from various directions and distances
- Noise Contour Map of the Project

In addition, a number of hand-outs were provided for attendees to take with them for further reference including:

- Brochures of the “indicative” GE 2.5MW wind turbine
- Victoria Government’s *Wind Energy Myths and Facts*<sup>2</sup>
- National Health Research Medical Council *Wind Turbines and Health* Summary
- NSW Valuer General Report, *Preliminary Assessment of the Impact of Wind Farms on Surrounding Land Values in Australia*

The majority of attendees at the Community Information Days were supportive of the proposed development including neighbours living 1-2 kilometres from a proposed wind turbine. Some business owners attended and were very cognizant of the beneficial economic impact of the project and expressed strong support for the proposal. The Blayney Shire Mayor, Bruce Kingham, attended the Community Information Day and expressed support for the wind farm project<sup>3</sup>

Some other attendees expressed degrees of concern with wind energy, in general and/or the Flyers Creek project in particular. A few neighbours expressed the belief that wind energy was the “global green conspiracy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” and that it was neither effective in generating electricity nor safe for the environment.

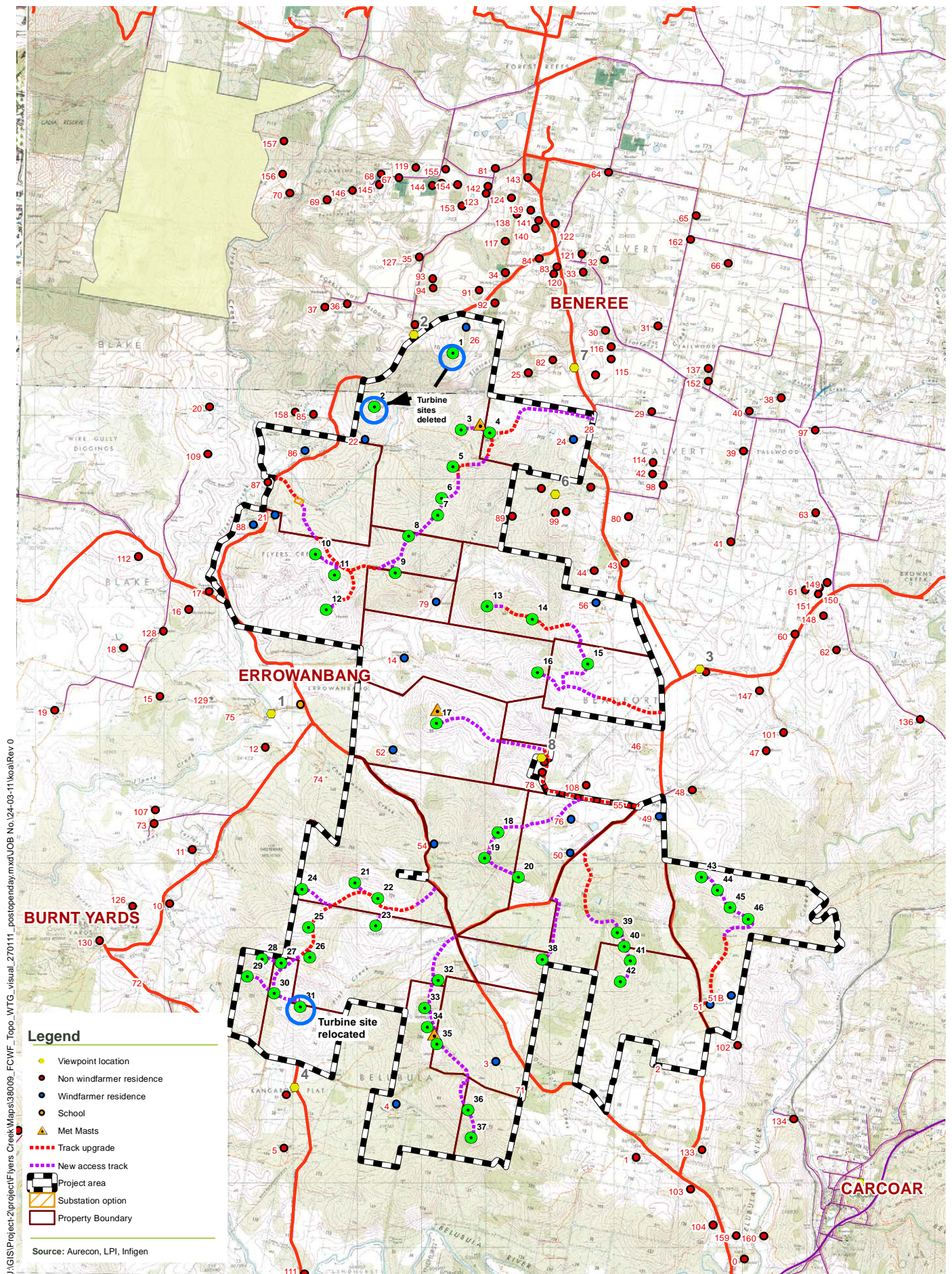
Other neighbours provided constructive comments about particular aspects of the proposed wind farm that they believed resulted in an undesirable amenity impact on their residence, typically focussing on the potential visual amenity impact. Wind turbines 1 and 2 of the layout displayed at the Community Information Day and shown in Figure 6.1 attracted the most concern with several neighbours expressing that one, or both, of these turbines were their primary concern with the proposed wind farm. One neighbour also expressed concern with regards to the location of turbine 31 indicating that they would appreciate consideration being given to moving the turbine northward to the other side of the hill to reduce its visual impact.

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<sup>2</sup> The Department of Climate Change, Environment & Water *Wind Energy Facts* document was not available for the Information Days

<sup>3</sup> Two recent articles from the Blayney Shire Chronicle reporting on the Flyers Creek project appear in Appendix 6-2





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## Flyers Creek Wind Farm Environmental Assessment

Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Note: Visual analysis is based on a DTM built from a combination of best available contours. The analysis is created from top of blade (150m) and attempts to show an indicative worst case. No allowance is made for the screening of vegetation or other structures.

**FIGURE 6.1: Project Layout Changes after Information Day**



Survey forms were available and attendees were encouraged to fill them out before they left. A summary of the survey responses is provided in Appendix 6-4. Table 6.4 sets out primary issues raised during consultation and the proponent's response to the issues.

Besides the potential visual amenity impact of the wind turbines, the other main issues of concern that were raised during discussions at the Community Information Days were the potential effect on land values and potential for noise impacts. A list of the specific issues raised during consultation is provided in Table 6.4 and these have all been discussed in various chapters of this Environmental Assessment.

## 6.4 Project Design Changes as a Result of Community Feedback

As previously stated, the purpose of the Community Information Days was to provide detailed information with regards to the current design of the project and to obtain feedback with respect to the layout of the project.

Wind turbines 1 & 2, as shown in Figure 6.1, attracted several comments with regards to their perceived visual impact on neighbours to the north and west. However, these turbines are located in some of the highest wind resource areas of the project. In fact, both wind turbine 1 and 2 are amongst the top six electrical generating turbines in the project.

However, after further consideration and analysis, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd took the decision following the Community Information Day to delete both of these turbines from the project for two primary reasons:

- The visual amenity impact of the project could be substantially reduced for northern and north-western neighbours to the project as these turbines were solitary turbines on hills. Deleting one turbine within a cluster of turbines does not normally have a significant visual amenity improvement; however, in this case deletion of the only turbine on a hill was considered to represent a material improvement in visual amenity.
- The majority of neighbours live north of the project many having purchased "lifestyle" blocks in the General Rural Zone (1a) in the past few years. Deletion of turbines 1 and 2 significantly "moves" the project southward away from these neighbouring residences thereby reducing the visual amenity and potential noise impact of the project. Table 6.3 documents the increase in distance from the nearest wind turbine for several representative properties (Figure 6.1).

**Table 6.3 – Increase in distance from the nearest wind turbine for several representative properties**

Residence	Information Day Layout		Revised Layout		Increase in Distance to Nearest WTG
	Closest Turbine	Distance (m)	Closest Turbine	Distance (m)	
94	1	1053	3	2247	2.1 Times Further Away
125	1	2320	3	3859	1.7 Times Further Away
140	1	1900	4	3273	1.7 Times Further Away
92	1	1024	4	2025	2.0 Times Further Away
27	1	800	3	1784	2.2 Times Further Away
85	2	950	10	2198	2.3 Times Further Away
158	2	1250	10	2256	1.8 Times Further Away

Additionally, in response to a specific request from the Community Information Day, turbine 31 has been moved over 100 metres north from the original location to place it on the "other" side of the top of the hill from neighbouring residences located south of the project. The result is that not all of turbine 31 will be visible on the other side of the hill particularly with the trees on the southward face of the hill.

Further discussion of the visual amenity impact of the project, including photomontages is included in Chapter 9.

## 6.5 Issues raised during Consultation

A range of issues has been raised during the consultation process (one-to-one meetings with neighbours, correspondence, liaison and the Information Days). The primary issues raised are summarised in Table 6.4 together with a summary of the response to the issue. These issues have also been addressed by the Environmental Assessment.

**Table 6.4 – Issues arising from consultation undertaken to date and response to Issue**

Stakeholder group	Summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation	Summary of FCWF response to issue raised
Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lease arrangements, project design and impacts on use of their land. visual, noise, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiation and agreements entered into.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual impact – size of turbines a concern, impact on existing views, limited potential for screening</li> <li>Turbines considered unattractive, horrible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setbacks from neighbouring residences were a significant factor in designing of the turbine layout.</li> <li>Two contentious turbines removed and one set back from top of ridge.</li> <li>While some people will regard wind turbines as unattractive, others view them as graceful structures representing our clean energy future. Therefore, people's opinions on this are quite subjective. The worldwide annualised 30% growth per year for installed wind energy capacity indicates that, on balance, the requirement for growth in renewable energy generation has outweighed some individual adverse views of the turbines and wind farms.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential noise impacts and disturbance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The turbine layout will comply with the NSW Department of Planning noise requirements which are the most stringent in Australia.</li> <li>Two turbines removed following consultation will further reduce noise levels for nearby neighbours of the northern part of the project.</li> <li>Construction activities that represent a nuisance to neighbours will be avoided during night time and Sunday.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for adverse impacts on land values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This issue is a common cause of concern for neighbours of virtually all infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Discussion of land value issue with attendees during information days and visits to neighbours.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation	Summary of FCWF response to issue raised
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for adverse impacts on land values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas studies and AusWEA factsheets provided to neighbours concerned about the issue.</li> <li>The NSW Valuer General Report documenting no impact to farms and residences in nearby towns was provided to neighbours and at the Information Days.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human health and safety impacts (Infrasound)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of information during neighbour visits and at the Community Information Day such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SA EPA conclusion infrasound levels causing disturbance have never been documented.</li> <li>NHRMC Study documenting no evidence of infrasound issues.</li> <li>Sonus study examining the potential issues of infrasound disturbance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic effects, including scheduling heavy truck movements outside school bus hours and conflict with local traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with Blayney Shire Council.</li> <li>Thorough assessment and identification of controls. See Chapter 13</li> <li>Traffic management plan proposed for construction phase.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact on wildlife, especially avifauna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment by ecologists and mitigation measures incorporated in project. See Chapter 10.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate consultation/awareness of the project. Some attendees at information days indicated they had not previously been aware of the proposal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front page articles in the major daily newspaper for the district in 2008 and 2009.</li> <li>Proactive meetings with any neighbours expressing concerns about the project to landowners in the project.</li> <li>Face to face meetings with over 30 nearby neighbours of the project.</li> <li>Notification of Community Information Days .</li> <li>Media articles.</li> <li>Advertising for Information Days.</li> <li>Public exhibition of Environmental Assessment in 2011.</li> </ul>
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal pastoral activities can be continued on wind farm lands. Neighbour's stock are more distant from the project site and will not be impacted by the development.</li> </ul>



Stakeholder group	Summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation	Summary of FCWF response to issue raised
Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions with regards to the reliability and efficiency of Wind Farm energy production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2008, three 80 metre meteorological masts were installed which confirmed the viability of a wind farm in the project area.</li> <li>Wind turbines are more efficient converting wind energy to electricity than coal fired generators are converting energy in coal to electricity.</li> <li>Wind energy is the leading electricity generating technology being built in Europe (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the USA).</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential traffic and road safety issues</li> <li>Suitable wind farm viewing area</li> <li>Consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing discussions with Blayney Council.</li> <li>Negotiation with Council (and landowners).</li> <li>Ongoing need.</li> </ul>
NSW Department of Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Assessment and consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Planning was involved in the planning focus meeting, have issued DGRs (Appendix A), update meetings have occurred, and the Department will review the Environmental Assessment documentation.</li> </ul>
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Requirements for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flora and fauna assessment</li> <li>Archaeological assessment</li> <li>Noise assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist assessment of each issue included in EA (Chapters 10, 11 and 12).</li> <li>Reports to be reviewed by Department of Planning and DECCW.</li> </ul>
Country Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project electrical design and connection to the existing power system. Grid connection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison with Country Energy.</li> </ul>
TransGrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notified of proximity of turbines to microwave link path</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaison in respect of clearance from TransGrid link path.</li> <li>Design avoids interference with TransGrid link path.</li> </ul>
Land and Property Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on Trig Stations and Survey activities</li> <li>LPMA advised details of Calvert &amp; Hopkins Trig Stations and specific sight lines for the Trig Stations</li> <li>Details of Crown Land (mostly road reserves) obtained for proponent in relation to track and cable crossings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design for setbacks from Trig Stations and avoidance of sight lines (Chapter 14)</li> <li>Protective barrier around Trig Stations during construction.</li> <li>Proponent to establish access agreements with LPMA.</li> </ul>
NSW Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on agricultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal impact. Construction in consultation with landowners for wind farm site.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation	Summary of FCWF response to issue raised
Rural Fire Service (RFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development needs to meet objectives of <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006</i> (PBP)</li> <li>Bushfire risk management plan should be developed prior to construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCWF will meet the aims and objectives of PBP.</li> <li>A bushfire risk management plan for construction and operation will be developed in consultation with the RFS (Chapter 16).</li> </ul>
Department of Investment and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for 'appropriate' renewable energy projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings have been held.</li> </ul>
Department of Investment and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of Exploration Licenses obtained.</li> <li>High Mineral prospectively</li> <li>Potential Impacts of wind farm development and operation on current and future mineral exploration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind resource has been proven; no identifiable mineral resources have been discovered or proven in decades of exploration.</li> <li>Continued mineral exploration not materially restricted by construction or operation of the wind farm.</li> <li>See Section 4.4.5 for more details</li> </ul>
Exploration License Holders (Goldminco and/or Newcrest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential restrictions on exploration activities</li> <li>Conflict between large scale mining and an operating wind farm (should an identified and economic mineral resource be discovered, proven and mining operations are sought)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowable drilling distances to wind farm infrastructure and other information provided to exploration license holders.</li> <li>Operating wind turbines are not a compatible land use with a large mineral mine.</li> <li>See Section 4.4.5 for more details.</li> </ul>
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on National Environmental Issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist reviews undertaken for flora and fauna issues and indigenous heritage aspects (Chapters 10 and 11).</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on heritage values of the locality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment included on-site surveys by Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council and several Traditional Land Owner representatives (Chapter 11).</li> </ul>
Crown Castle/Optus and Telstra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement to ensure that turbines have adequate clearances from existing registered microwave link paths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design avoids interference with relevant Optus link paths.</li> <li>Telstra link path is well clear of turbines.</li> <li>Ongoing liaison prior to final turbine siting.</li> <li>See Chapter 14 for more details.</li> </ul>
APA Gas Pipeline Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued access to pipeline maintained</li> <li>Risk assessment undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCWF will not hinder APA's access to the pipeline</li> <li>FCWF will undertake a risk assessment in consultation with the APA (Chapter 16).</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during consultation	Summary of FCWF response to issue raised
Local business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for increased business for local contractors and service providers (hospitality, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCWF working with the Industry Capability Network to maximise opportunities for local contractors</li> <li>FCWF has met with the Orange Chamber of Commerce in this regard</li> </ul>

## 6.6 Next Steps

Following the proponent's submission of the Environmental Assessment and after a period of review by Department of Planning and any amendments, the Environmental Assessment will be placed on public exhibition for a period determined by Department of Planning. The public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment will allow interested persons to review the details of the proposal and the associated Environmental Assessment. Where stakeholders have concerns regarding the proposed development they have the opportunity to lodge submissions to the Approval Authority. The Department of Planning is required to review all submissions and take into account the matters raised in determining the Project Application. It is possible that following the review process that the Department of Planning will seek a preferred project report from the proponent that addresses specific matters arising from the review and responds to any issues warranting modification of the proposal.

In the event that the proposal receives approval from the Minister, FCWF would then complete a tender process for the supply of equipment and construction of the wind farm. Following the tendering process and any associated refinements to the project design, FCWF will discuss with the Department of Planning whether any further information or clarifications are required.

## 6.7 Contact details

The contact details for Flyers Creek Wind Power Pty Ltd are as follows:

Proponent	Flyers Creek Wind Power Pty Ltd
Contact	Mr Jonathan Upson
Phone:	02 8031-9900
Facsimile	02 9247 6086
email:	<a href="mailto:Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com">Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com</a>
Address	Level 22, 56 Pitt Street, SYDNEY 2000





**Plate 6.1 – Discussion with stakeholders at Tallwood Community Hall Information Day.**



**Plate 6.2 – Infigen project management answering questions at Tallwood Community Hall Information Day.**

## 6.8 Appendices

- Appendix 6-1 – Article in Central West Daily in the early stages of the project planning
- Appendix 6-2 – Recent articles in Blayney Shire Chronicle
- Appendix 6-3 – Flyers Creek Wind Farm - Information Brochure
- Appendix 6-4 – Summary of survey responses from Information Days in November 2010

Appendix 6-1 – Article in Central West Daily in the early stages of the project planning

# Central Western Daily

Saturday, September 6, 2008

SERVING THE ORANGE COMMUNITY FOR 144 YEARS

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INSIDE



Prepared for anything

Page 4



Buyers gallop to Carcoar

Page 5



Olympic-sized water saving

Page 7

## 40 turbines planned for Forest Reefs

# Millions blowing in the wind

By BEVAN SHIELDS

PLANS have been unveiled to create one of the largest wind farms in Australia at a cost of over \$200 million on the scenic outskirts of Orange.

The *Central Western Daily* can today reveal the details of a proposal by investment bank Babcock and Brown to build at least 40 wind turbines to the south of the city near Forest Reefs.

If the plan eventuates, the wind farm would be capable of powering 57,000 homes.

A year of data testing is now underway, with three specially constructed 80 metre high mast towers designed to measure wind speeds now in place at the peak of the area's ridge line.

Babcock and Brown project manager Jonathan Upson yesterday said that if the data proved the project viable, a development application would be submitted towards the end of next year.

"Our indications show it does have enormous potential and if we were successful in any application we could be constructing the turbines within a couple of years. But we have a lot of work to do before then," he said.

Around 15 local landowners have expressed their interest to the investment firm about having turbines placed on their properties, with Babcock and Brown to pay a yearly fee for each turbine on site.

While Mr Upson would not confirm how much the locals would receive, similar arrangements across the country have seen landholders pocket \$600 to \$8,000 a year for each turbine on their property.

Errowanbang Road farmer Kim Masters said the remuneration could prove invaluable considering drought and water shortages had hit the area hard.

"I've been interested in the idea of wind farms in the area for the last 10 years and why not, they don't rely on sun and they don't rely on water so it really is the way things are heading in the future," he said.

Babcock and Brown are also understood to have briefed management of the nearby Cadia Valley Operations about the plan.

The investment group is the largest owner of wind farms in the country and the fifth largest owner of wind power infrastructure in the world.



IN THE WIND: Local farmer Kim Stevens in front of one of the three 80 metre high towers installed to the south of Orange as part of a proposal to build a massive wind farm in the area. Photo: STEVE GOSCH

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# Blayney Chronicle

Incorporating the LYNDHURST SHIRE CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, December 2, 2010

PRICE \$1.50 (incl GST)

## Shire's wind powered future

By CLARE COLLEY

By 2014 the Blayney Shire could be home to another wind farm if 46 wind turbines proposed for Flyers Creek are approved by the state government's Department of Planning.

The Flyers Creek project was one of a number of topics discussed at a Department of Environment Climate Change and Water forum held in Blayney last week to give all perspectives of wind farming and was also the subject of a separate community consultation meeting held recently at the Tallwood Hall.

Flyers Creek resident, Kim Masters, is one of 22 landholders who have signed up to the wind farm proposed for Flyers Creek, four

kilometres from Carcoar.

He believes wind farming is the best option to replace the state's aging power infrastructure with the state's most recent power station, Mount Piper, built in 1993.

"Objectors [to wind farms] should be asked where they would like their electricity to come from," he said.

"NSW has to come to the realisation that no matter whether they love or hate whichever electrical generation it has to come from somewhere."

Experts in every aspect of wind farming and representatives from the government addressed Friday's forum to dispel many of

the myths surrounding wind energy.

Those who attended were taken on a tour of Carcoar Wind Farm to show that their mobile phone signal was not affected by the turbines and to hear for themselves the noise the farm produces, Mr Masters said.

He believes the Carcoar Wind farm is not a good example of a modern wind farm as wind farming technology has improved significantly since it was constructed over 10 years ago.

"The Capital Wind Farm [near Bungendore] is the most modern and if people have any questions they should go and look at it," he said.

■ continued on page 7

### Have Your Say... What is your opinion about wind farms?

EMAIL us at [mail.blayney@ruralpress.com](mailto:mail.blayney@ruralpress.com)  
SMS 0418 223 440,  
SUBMIT your response on our website  
[www.blayneychronicle.com.au](http://www.blayneychronicle.com.au)  
WRITE to PO Box 7, Blayney NSW 2799 or  
VISIT our office at 78 Adelaide St, Blayney  
to give us your verdict.  
Please include your name,  
address and contact number.

## Wind farm proposed for Flyers Creek

## Mayor supports wind farm proposal

■ continued from page 1

Although the Flyers Creek wind farm is still in the planning stages Mr Masters said it was important people were informed about "both sides of the story".

"People have to decide one way or another if they are for or against it," he said.

"The landowners who have signed up for it have done their own research and they've come up with no reason why development shouldn't go ahead."

"We have had to get used to Cadia Mine and there is a lot more noise from the mine than the turbines."

Flyers Creek project manager, Jonathan Upson from Infigen Energy, said the proposed wind farm was "modest sized" compared to other Australian wind farms including the company's 67 turbine Capital Wind Farm.

The Flyers Creek wind farm is expected to generate 115MW (million watts) making it a significant addition to the 186 MW currently produced in the state.

Mr Upson said the wind farm will produce enough electricity to power over 40,000 homes and will most likely be used in the Orange district including Cadia Mine.

"The project started when two landowners approached the company," he said.

"They said it would be a good area, so it's really a community wind farm."

Mr Upson said the company will continue to consult with the community and the council as long as the project continues.

At the recent meeting in Tallwood details of the project were explained including the layout of the turbines, a photomontage of the area and acoustic maps to show the sound levels.

"We told them everything we know about the project," he said.



A digitally altered photo showing what the proposed Flyers Creek wind farm would look like from Browns Creek Road

"At the moment we are considering the feedback and contemplating some changes before we submit the Environmental Assessment to the NSW Department of Planning at the end of this year or the first quarter of next year."

He believes most people in the district are supportive of the project as they are used to the existing Carcoar Wind Farm.

"The big advantage of wind energy is that once they are taken away no-one would know a wind farm had been there," he said.

"People talk about preserving the

landscape for future generations but you are preserving it."

Mr Upson said the company will either remove the turbines and rehabilitate the site or replace them when the 20 to 25 year operation life of the farm ends.

The project's environmental assessment will be placed on public exhibition early next year.

If the project is approved by the Minister for Planning construction will commence in late 2012 and is expected to last 12 to 18 months.

Blayney Shire mayor Bruce Kingham said he personally supports the wind farm proposed at Flyers Creek, which he believes would be good for the area.

"It's a good clean way of producing electricity," he said.

"I don't know of a cleaner way and wind farming can be successful in conjunction with livestock and agriculture."

Cr Kingham said he thought the planning of the project presented at the community consultation meeting at Tallwood Hall was "very professional".

Although the Blayney Shire Council has not received any formal information about the project Cr Kingham said the developer has asked to make a presentation to council early in the new year.

"Council plays an important role because the construction would be using council roads and council infrastructure," he said.

Cr Kingham said the council would be looking at the development conditions to make sure the shire's roads were not damaged during the construction process if the project went ahead.

Director of engineering Paul O'Brien said the council will not play any role in the approval process for the project.

"Blayney Shire Council supports green energy options and where appropriate they would support them in our local government area," he said.

"The council was invited to the planning focus meeting and different government department were invited to give an overall view of what the project is about."

Mr O'Brien said the council will be told of the outcomes of the application after the Department of Planning receives public submissions.



# Flyers Creek Wind Farm – Project Overview

November 2010

## Purpose

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide preliminary information to the local community, relevant agencies and businesses about the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm project, its potential benefits and impacts and the planning approvals process. Contact details for the proponent are also provided to enable more information to be obtained if required, or to submit comments on the proposal.

## Project Overview

The proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm is a moderate scale wind farm development, comprising up to 46 wind turbines, a substation, access tracks and an electrical collection system of underground cables. The turbines will be located mostly along the ridgelines to the south-east of the Cadia mine site and to the north-west of Carcoar as can be seen in the map to the right. While a wind turbine model has not been selected for the project, utilisation of a 2.5MW (Million Watts) wind turbine would result in a project electrical capacity of 115MW.

The project site is entirely within the Blayney Shire Local Government Area and twenty two landowners are participating in the project. Operation of the wind farm can coexist with the existing grazing activities and serves to 'drought proof' the farmer's land by providing an additional income stream.

## Proponent

The proponent is Flyers Creek Wind Farm Pty Ltd, a company formed specifically for this project. The parent company, Infigen Energy, is the largest wind farm owner/operator in Australia. Infigen has developed and owns the 140 MW Capital Wind Farm, located about 40 kilometres north east of Canberra, the 279 MW Lake Bonney Wind Farm in South Australia and the 89 MW Alinta Wind Farm in Western Australia. Infigen Energy is headquartered in Sydney, Australia and is listed on the ASX exchange (IFN). More information on the company is available at [www.infigenenergy.com](http://www.infigenenergy.com)

## Role of renewable energy

The Flyers Creek Wind Farm is a significant electricity generation project that will be able to provide pollution free renewable energy into the National Electricity Grid. Such projects are encouraged by policies and legislation from both the State and Federal Governments.

Electricity generated from the renewable resource of wind energy reduces the consumption of finite resources of fossil fuels and avoids greenhouse gas emissions caused by burning fossil fuels.

The annual greenhouse gas savings attributed to operation of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm would be over 350,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or 7 million tonnes over the 20 year period of the wind farm operation

The Federal Government has established an expanded Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme with a target of providing 20% of the national electricity supply from renewable energy sources by 2020 to which the Flyers Creek project will contribute.

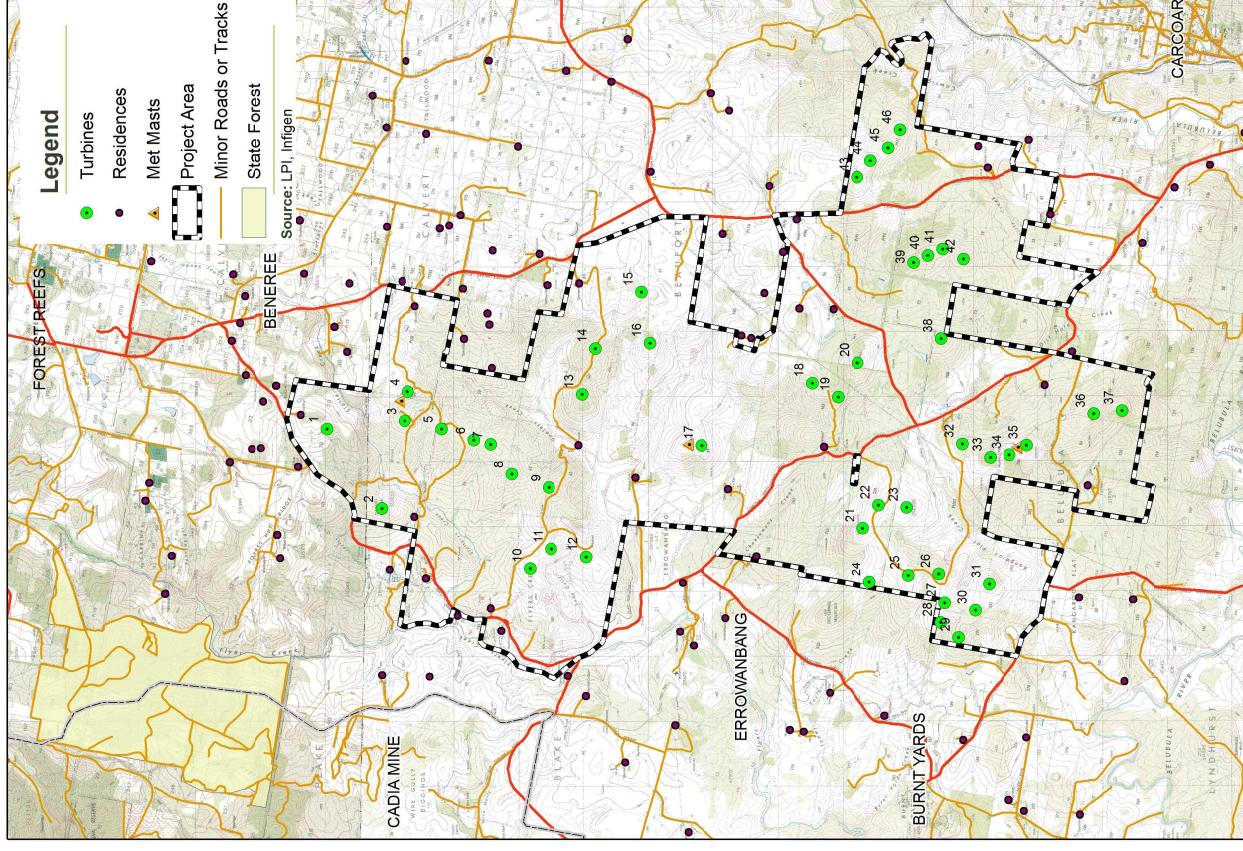
NSW currently has 186 MW of installed wind energy generation capacity, so development of the ~115MW Flyers Creek Wind Farm would be a significant addition to NSW renewable energy generation.

## Approval process

For the project to proceed to construction and operation, it must first obtain planning approval from the responsible authority, which in this case, is the NSW State Government. The NSW Government has designated the Flyers Creek wind farm project to be a Major Project under Part 3A of the EP & A Act as well as "Critical Infrastructure".

As part of that process, the proponent has commissioned Aurecon to compile an Environmental Assessment that addresses the potential impacts of the project along with their mitigation and management which will support the Project Application.

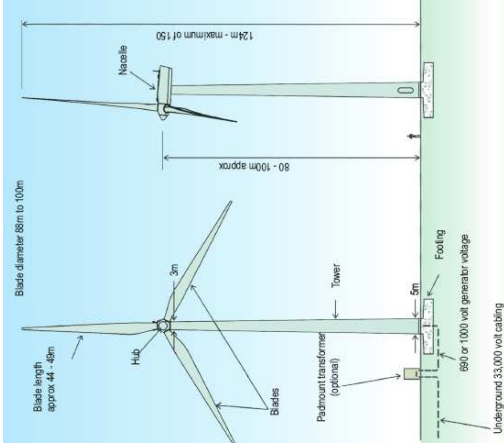
The status of the planning process can be viewed on the Department of Planning's web site located at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>.





## Project details

The planning phase has considered up to 46 wind turbines and a range of turbine models with various layouts. The wind turbine model to be used for the project will be determined through a competitive tender process.



Turbine Schematic

While the wind turbine model has not been finalised, each turbine would have the following characteristics:

- A generation capacity of 2-3 MW
- A tower height of 80 – 100 metres
- Three rotor blades up to 50 metres in length

- The total height (to the top of the blade sweep) will be no more than 150 metres.
- Rotation speed of about 18 revolutions per minute

The electricity generated by the wind farm will be exported to the existing 132,000 volt Country Energy transmission line running between Orange and the Cadia Mine.

Construction works will include:

- temporary construction facilities
- formation of internal access tracks
- delivery of equipment and materials
- excavation and construction of footings
- erection of the wind turbines
- construction of a substation
- trenching for underground cables
- several wind monitoring towers

The construction will be followed by removal of temporary facilities, restoration of the site and commissioning of the wind farm. The construction stage of the project will likely span 12 to 18 months and will be subject to a detailed Environmental Management Plan.

## Potential environmental, social and economic impacts

All electricity generation plants have potential amenity impacts on the surrounding area. Some of the issues raised in relation to wind energy projects and which are being comprehensively assessed for this project are:

- visual impacts, shadow flicker and glint effects

- noise during construction and operation
- traffic impacts during construction
- vegetation clearing and habitat disturbance for construction
- impacts on birds or bats during operation
- potential heritage impacts
- telecommunications interference

Each wind farm project has particular site specific aspects that need to be addressed depending on the site characteristics, scale of the wind farm development and sensitivities existing at the proposed site.

Carcoar is the nearest township and is located about 4 kilometres to the closest wind turbine. Some areas of Carcoar are likely to have obscured views of parts of the project.

The immediate rural residential areas surrounding the wind farm have a relatively low settlement density. Nevertheless, a detailed visual and acoustic analysis of the potential amenity impact is being undertaken.

About 9 km southeast of the proposed wind farm is the 15 wind turbine Blayney wind farm. The Blayney wind farm, featured on the Blayney Shire logo, is visible in the distance from various points within the Flyers Creek wind farm site. The Cadia Mine, one of the largest gold mines in Australia, is located about 8km NW of the proposed wind farm.

It is anticipated that the project will generate both directly and indirectly a significant number of employment opportunities for people from the local area during the construction stage. Once the wind farm is operational there will be a small on site staff of about six technical people.

The overall benefits of the project include its ability to sustainably generate electricity without any air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.

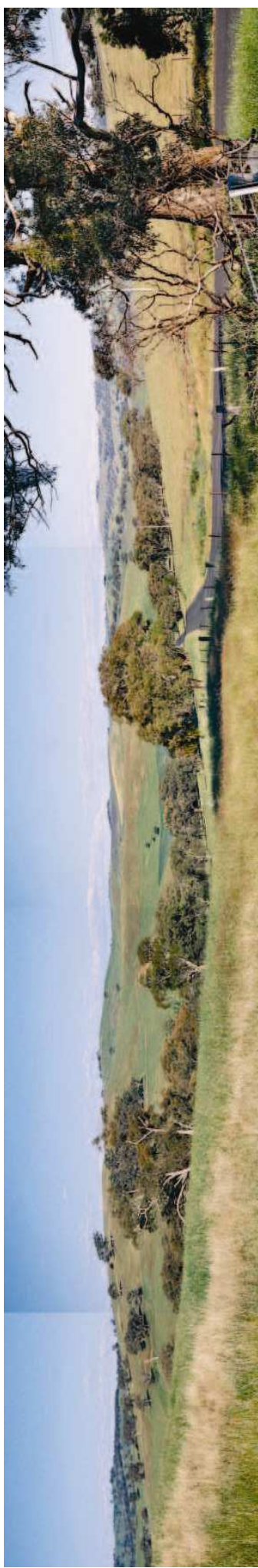
## Consultation

A range of consultation with Blayney Shire Council, various government agencies, the local community and other stakeholders has been undertaken and is continuing.

Individual consultation visits with many of the closer neighbours has been occurring over the past months introducing the project and answering any questions the neighbours might have.

## Project timeframe

- Finalisation of Environmental Assessment and submission to the NSW Dept. of Planning (end 2010)
- Public Exhibition Period (early 2011)
- Determination of the Project Application by the Minister for Planning (mid 2011)
- Construction would commence at the earliest in 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2012 and would be likely to extend over a 12 to 18 month period.
- The operational life of the wind farm would be about 20 years.



**Proponent contact details** Should you have any comments on the proposal or wish to submit questions to the proponent, please contact:

Jonathan Upson, Senior Development Manager, Infigen Energy - Level 22, 56 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000; Phone: (02) 8031 9900; Facsimile: (02) 9247 6086; Email: [Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com](mailto:Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com)

# Flyers Creek Wind Farm – Planning Overview

November 2010

## Appendix 6-4 – Summary of survey responses from Information Days in November 2010

### 1. Background

As indicated in Section 6.3.2, two Community Information Days were held at the Tallwood Community Hall on a Friday and Saturday (19 and 20 November 2010). A range of information was made available by the proponent mostly in the form of posters showing various aspects related to the proposal but also including various information brochures on pertinent topics as previously discussed.

Attendees were greeted on arrival and introduced to project team representatives. Each visitor was asked to register their details and to indicate their location relative to the wind farm. Forty nine people registered their attendance. Some family groups did not register all attendees and several attendees chose not to register their details.

Prior to leaving attendees were asked if they would like to complete a short one page questionnaire in regards to the wind farm proposal. Attendees were also asked if they were interested in receiving updates about the project as they become available. Where contact details were provided and the attendee has requested to be kept informed of progress of the proposal, the proponent will provide periodic updates to the interested parties. One follow up letter to Information Day attendees has been sent.

A total of 31 attendees (over 60% of registrants) completed questionnaires and the following summarises the responses to the questions set out below. It should be noted that the attendees may or may not be an accurate representative sample of the community. In fact, one might expect that attendees to a Community Information Day would contain a higher proportion of those with concerns about the project.

### 2. Summary of responses to Questionnaires (total of 31)

**Question 1:** *What was your reason for attending this information day?*  
*Options - Proximity / General Interest / Other (please specify)*

Answers:

- Proximity – 14
- General Interest – 13
- Other – Involved – 3, Dislike Wind Farm -1,

**Question 2:** *Were you aware of the proposed wind farm before this event?*

Answers: All except one respondent indicated a prior awareness of the proposal.

**Question 3:** *Have you much prior knowledge of wind farms?*

Answers: Twenty one of the respondents indicated prior knowledge of wind farms

**Question 4:** *Have you visited any wind farms? If so which ones?*

Answers: Ten respondents said they had not visited wind farms previously. Those that had visited wind farms previously listed Blayney, Crookwell, Capital and Alinta wind farms and one mentioned wind farms in Europe.

**Question 5:** *Do you think renewable energy is beneficial to the community?*

Answers: Twenty four indicated that considered renewable energy as beneficial to the community. One of these indicated a preference for solar. Four did not think renewable energy was beneficial and three were undecided.



**Question 6:** *Are you aware of the key planning issues for this wind farm project?*

Answers: Twenty one indicated an awareness of planning issues for wind farms while ten were not aware of the planning issues.

**Question 7:** *Do you think that a wind farm is beneficial for the local area?*

Answers: A range of responses as indicated below:

- Yes – 18
- No – 5
- 'Beneficial' To Some – 3
- Unsure – 5

**Question 8:** *Do you think the proposed project site is suitable for a wind farm?*

Answers: A range of responses as indicated below:

- Yes – 19
- No – 8
- Unsure – 4

**Question 9:** *What makes it a suitable or unsuitable site?*

Answers: Grouped by whether the respondent considered the site suitable

1 – Considered site suitable because:

- Terrain, wind resource/availability and no pollution produced
- Well spaced out
- Wind Turbine number 2 not suitable, otherwise ok

2 – Considered site unsuitable due to:

- Visual impact
- Number of turbines
- Habitat destruction
- Grazing
- Proximity to residences
- Land values and/or affect on business

**Question 10:** *Do you have any general comments on the wind farm proposal?*

Answers: Grouped by whether the response was supportive or critical of the proposal

1 – Supportive response

- Great idea
- Proceed quickly
- Great – very good information day
- Construct quickly - Fantastic
- Want more towers – Bring it on
- Good Luck

2 – Unsupportive response or seeking variation

- Need for better understanding
- Strongly oppose wind turbine #31 and would like to see it moved back or removed
- Eyesore, habitat, flora and fauna destruction, health issues eg, Nina Pierpont
- Why not build the wind farm in Sydney?
- Wind farms are the greatest green lie of the 21st century

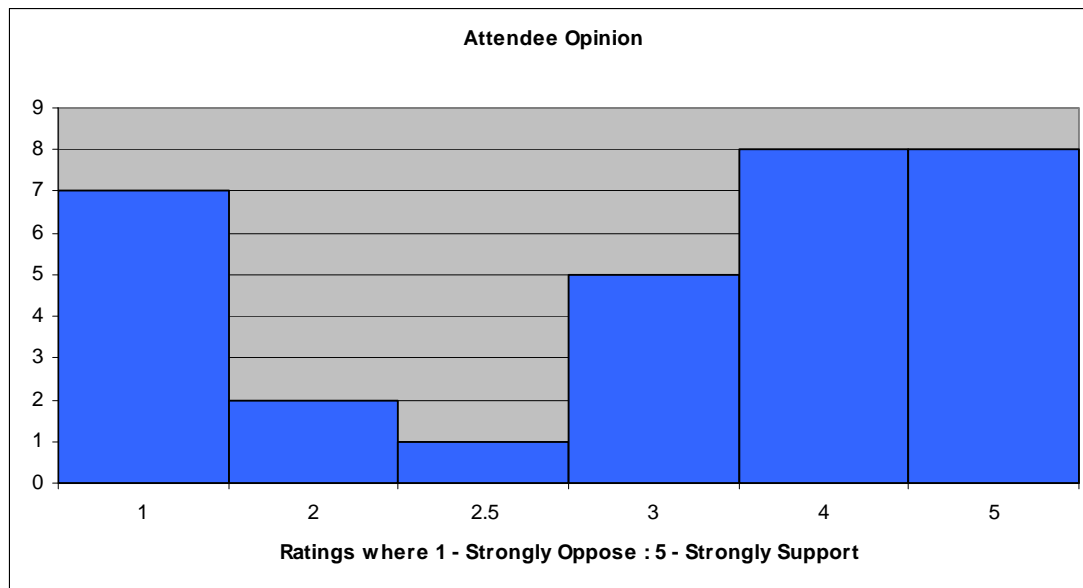
- Not effective as an energy source – Wind farm technology in its infancy
- Horrified
- Reconsider position of wind turbine number 2 – affects future plans for residence close to wind turbine number 2
- Too secretive
- Effects on chicken egg production to the north of the wind farm site

3 – Intermediate/Query

- Is the set-up and follow-up cost worthwhile for the power
- More involvement with local residents
- Only a few benefit

**Question 11:** *Having seen the material provided today, please indicate your opinion of the proposal*

Answers: The responses are shown graphically below (5 represents strong support). Nine responders out of 31 opposed the project.



**Question 13:** *Would you like to be kept informed of the progress of the project and received updates? Preferred contact details for updates:*

Contact details have been recorded and future updates will be provided by the proponent as requested by attendees.