

APPENDIX 5

Boco Rock Wind Farm Newsletter 1, September 2008

Boco Rock Wind Farm Newsletter 2, February 2009

Introducing the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm to the local community

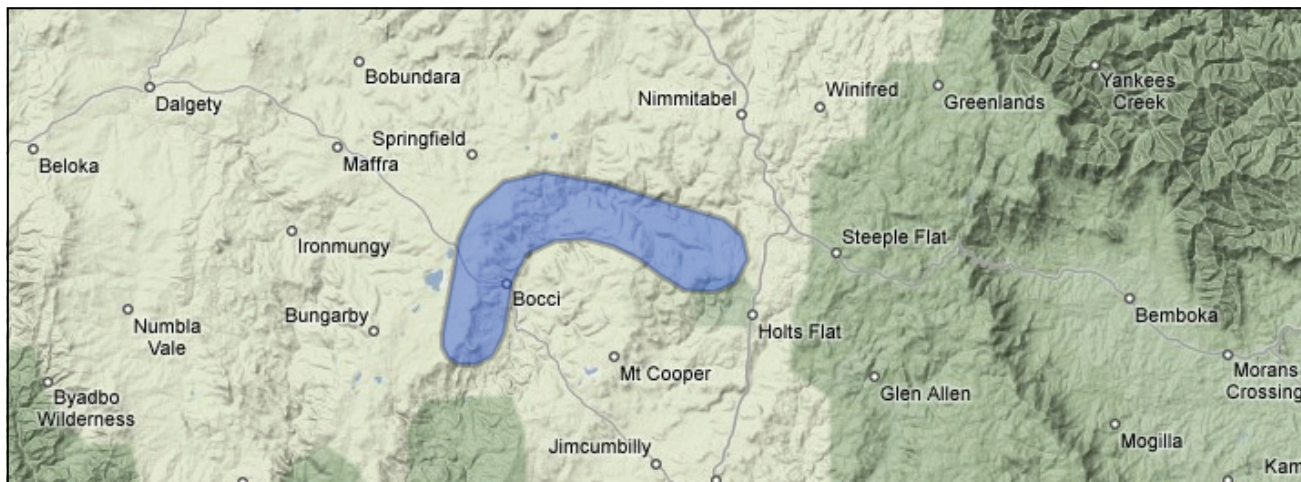
Dear Resident,

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is assessing the potential for a wind farm development on rural land approximately 10km south west of Nimmitabel and 32km north of Bombala, New South Wales (see map below). The proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm would accommodate up to 73 wind turbines and produce up to 490GWh of clean, renewable energy. This is enough to supply approximately [70,000]* average homes across Australia.

Within this newsletter, we would like to introduce Wind Prospect CWP and the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm project to the community. The project is in the early stages of planning, and we are welcoming any comment that members of the community may have at this time. We intend to provide the community with regular updates by way of newsletters and contact details are made available on the back page of this newsletter should you wish to contact us directly.

Following further assessments we will hold a community open day where there will be a range of information about the proposed project on display and opportunities to ask questions and meet the Wind Prospect team. In addition to this we will launch an interactive project specific website whereby you can keep up to date with latest news regarding the proposal.

Map showing the location of the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm (blue boundary) in relation to nearby towns.



Likely view of the Boco Rock Wind Farm, facing Sherwins Range, south west of Ando Road, easting 688 691, northing 5 942 582 (Zone 55 UTM).



* based on an indicative capacity factor for the project of c.40% and an average household energy use of 6.926MWh p.a. (Electricity Gas Australia 2008 publication from the Electricity Supply Association of Australia ESAA)

WIND PROSPECT CWP PTY LTD AND THE WIND PROSPECT GROUP

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is a locally based wind farm development company with an office in Newcastle, NSW that is staffed by experienced wind farm professionals with a range of skills in planning, engineering and environmental science.

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is a partnership between the Wind Prospect Pty Ltd and Continental Wind Partners. Wind Prospect Pty Ltd is part of the Wind Prospect Group, a progressive global organisation that is developing, constructing and operating renewable energy solutions in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, China and Hong Kong, Canada, France and the USA. Wind Prospect has over 18 years experience of successful development in the industry and has been involved in over 2,500MW of approved wind generation, both onshore and offshore, with 380MW under construction or operating in Australia.

The key to Wind Prospect's successes has always been, and will continue to be, our attention to early and effective community consultation along with the consideration of the thoughts, views and concerns of local residents. As such, we look forward to hearing your views throughout the development process.

Recent successes in South Australia include the Hallett Wind Farm, approximately 250km north east of Adelaide. This project is Wind Prospect's third wind farm development to progress to construction in South Australia, with more projects to follow (please see our website for the latest news).

Continental Wind Partners is a leading renewable energy fund currently developing over 2000MW of wind energy generation projects in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Photomontage of Hallett Hill Wind Farm; one of four wind clusters approved for development totaling 260MW.



DRIVERS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government has clearly targeted renewable energy generation as a way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and tackling the problems of global climate change. Indeed the Australian commitment to renewables is very much in the forefront of political drivers, such as the;

- ratification of the Kyoto Protocol,
- proposed extension to the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) whereby retailers will be required to source 20% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2020, and
- recent discussions surrounding the introduction of an emissions trading scheme.

WHY WIND?

- Australia has a world class wind resource which can provide comparatively priced, clean and reliable energy to the nation.
- The development of wind farms helps to meet our ever growing demand for power.
- Utilising wind energy increases our diversity of energy sources thereby increasing our security of electricity supply.
- We need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.
- Wind energy integrates very well with other renewable and fossil fuel technologies already in existence across the country.

THE BOCO ROCK WIND FARM

The Boco Rock Wind Farm would consist of up to 73 wind turbines with a rated capacity between 2 to 3.3MW each. The wind turbines would be three bladed, multi-pitch, horizontal axis machines, with a maximum height of approximately 155m (i.e. from the base of the tower to blade tip when the blade is in the vertical position). Turbines would be located chiefly on the higher altitude ridges within the site boundary, where they would be well spaced and positioned with a high regard for landscape amenity, existing land use, ecological, conservation, and cultural heritage values, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

The wind farm would also consist of ancillary structures and equipment which would be positioned in accordance with site constraints. These include underground electrical cabling, access tracks, wind measuring masts, a small switch gear building and compound and temporary facilities during the construction phase. An export distribution line would also be required to connect to the nearby transmission network. The site is currently used as rural farm land and this would continue to be the case after construction. Once the wind farm is operational it would be monitored remotely, with maintenance staff likely to service the machines every six months.

The life span of a wind farm is usually 20 years, after which time there would be an option to either decommission the site, fully restoring the area to its previous land use, or to upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational life.

WHY WE SELECTED THE BOCO ROCK SITE?

The Boco Rock Wind Farm has been proposed after careful consideration of a number of potential sites in Australia and a variety of environmental and technical criteria.

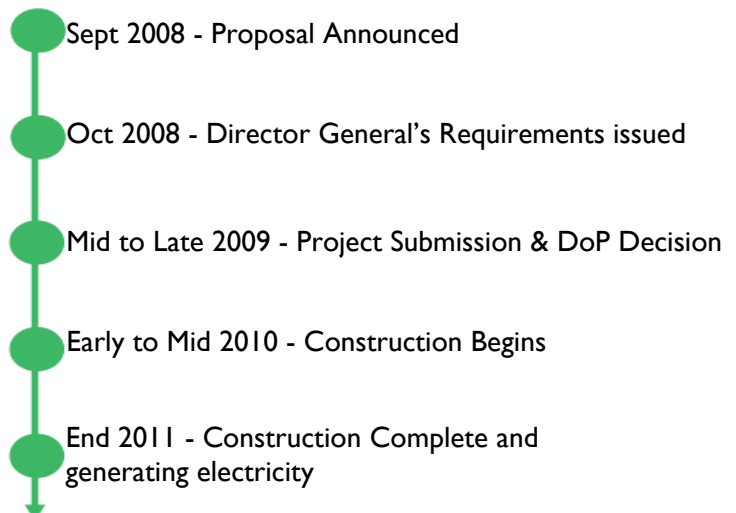
We considered a wide range of factors when looking for wind farm sites including wind resource, proximity to the transmission grid, access, ecology, archaeology and cultural significance, proximity to residential dwellings and visual impact. We have surveyed New South Wales considering these factors and consider Boco Rock to be a prime location for a wind farm development.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and available on their website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au (following the links to *On Exhibition* and then *Major Projects Part 3A*). Over the next few months the focus will be on talking to the community to get your input into the proposal, and at the same time engaging specialist consultants to undertake and complete detailed investigations into the following areas:

- Ecology
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Acoustics
- Geology
- Civil Works/Construction
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Aviation
- Traffic Impact and Safety
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Cumulative Impact

PROPOSED TIME LINE



MORE ABOUT WIND FARMS

Visual Effects

The view of modern wind turbines provokes a mixed response from the public; many consider them to be elegant additions to the landscape while others do not like the way wind farms look. Wind farms are usually found on ridgelines, theoretically making them visible over a large area. However, distance from the wind farm, along with screening by intervening topography, vegetation and buildings are all factors that reduce the visibility of the wind farm. Weather and light conditions also have a significant effect on wind farm visibility.

We will be undertaking a review of the project in terms of landscape effects and visual amenity. Part of this study will determine how visible the wind farm will be from representative viewpoints around the local area, by way of 3D modelling and the production of wind farm photo simulations. We have found that many people have been pleasantly surprised by the results of these photo simulations, as in most cases they show that the wind farm will be a distant rather than prominent landscape feature.

Sound

Thanks to technological improvements modern wind turbines are very quiet and while they do emit sound as the blades rotate, it is quite possible to hold a normal conversation at the base of a modern machine. The main sound from wind turbines is the aerodynamic noise from the blades. This sound varies according to turbine type, topography, wind speed and direction (it is very difficult to hear a wind farm on a windy day due to the background noise, such as rustling vegetation and the whistling of the wind itself). However, concerns over sound emitted from a wind farm are understandable given the noisy reputation of earlier turbine models. To allay these concerns and to ensure the wind farm complies with South Australian EPA's Environmental Noise Guidelines (Interim guidelines, 2007), we will be commissioning an acoustic consultant to assess if there will be any noise effects from the proposed project on nearby properties.

Ecology

The construction and operation of a wind farm has the potential to affect the ecology of the site. A comprehensive biodiversity assessment of the site will focusing on flora, fauna (including birds, reptiles, and invertebrates), habitats and waterways. Our approach is to avoid where possible, mitigate appropriately, and offset biodiversity losses as advised.

Useful Websites

Boco Rock Wind Farm: [coming soon]

Wind Prospect : www.windprospect.com.au

Clean Energy Council: www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au



HOW TO CONTACT US



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www.windprospect.com.au



If you wish to participate in the community consultation, please make contact with us and request a copy of our Public Opinion Survey.

An update on the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm

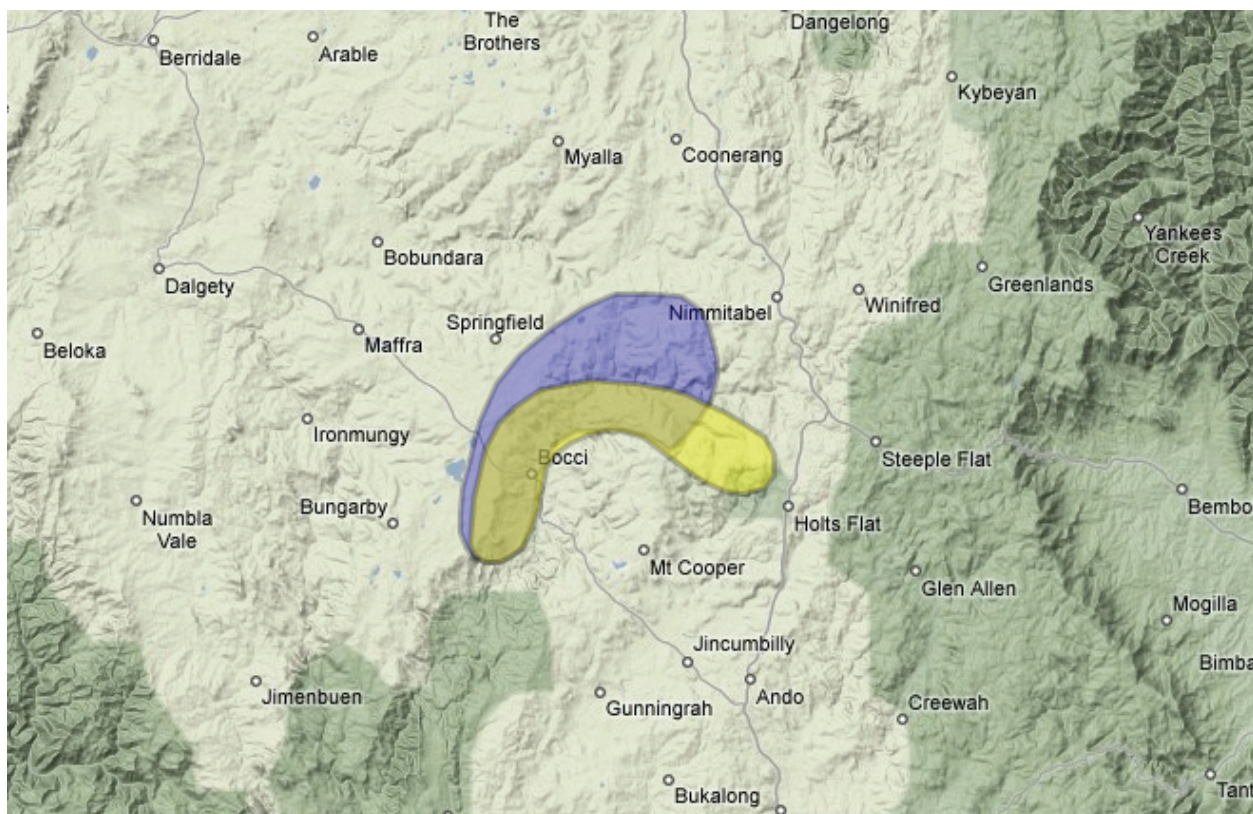
Dear Resident,

When we first announced the proposed Boco Rock Wind Farm in September 2008 the project consisted of up to 73 turbines spread over 9 different properties. A project of this size would produce enough energy to supply over 70,000 average Australian households.¹

In response to our announcement and the neighbouring resident "door-knocking" exercise we conducted, several changes have since been made. As mentioned on the project website - www.bocorockwindfarm.com.au - the majority of the responses we received have been positive, but where they were less so we have acted in consultation with those affected parties to mitigate the impact of the proposal. Together with more detailed grid connection studies, other project related studies and discussions with turbine manufacturers, we have been able to modify the scale of the proposed project and the area on which the wind farm will be situated.

Our proposal now consists of a wind farm with up to 127 wind turbines spread over 17 different properties, with the potential to produce enough energy to supply over 120,000 average Australian homes.¹

The map image below indicates how the boundary of the wind farm has changed from the initial proposal (yellow) to the new proposal (blue) as a result of additional community consultation.



Further details on the wind farm proposal can be found on the project website, in the revised Preliminary Environmental Assessment (which will be resubmitted to the New South Wales Department of Planning in the coming weeks), and at our **Open Day on Thursday 26th March**, details of which are on the next page.

¹ based on an indicative 2MW turbine with a capacity factor of c.40% and an average household energy use of 6.926MWh p.a. (Electricity Gas Australia 2008 publication from the Electricity Supply Association of Australia ESAA)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Open Day

We intend to hold an **Open Day** detailing the aspects of the wind farm on **Thursday 26th March** at the **Nimmitabel Country Club**, between **2.30 - 7.30pm**. There will be the opportunity to meet and ask questions of members of the Wind Prospect CWP team, as well as various displays detailing the outcome of our assessments to date.

Community Support

In December 2008 Wind Prospect CWP donated \$4,000 to assist Nimmitabel Public School procure a small wind turbine for the school grounds. The installation and commissioning of this micro wind turbine will not only help reduce the school's carbon footprint but also the energy bill - undoubtedly a win-win!

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Ecology

Ecological surveys are being carried out by Eco Logical Australia who have been on site since October assessing the flora and fauna in the area of the wind farm. Once complete, details of their findings will be made available on the project website and at the Open Day. Where the proposal could have a significant impact on the local ecosystem, we have modified the layout or have plans to invest in BioBanking as a means of protecting the environment. Further information on BioBanking can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/.

Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)

A study conducted by a consultant to assess potential radio-communication interference surrounding the proposed wind farm site found no immediate impact on existing services. In case of television interference, Wind Prospect CWP will endeavour to rectify the issue by installing improved receptor/transmitter infrastructure or providing satellite television equipment.

Acoustics

The acoustic study, carried out by Heggies, will assess construction and traffic noise impacts, as well as operational impacts. This will incorporate baseline noise monitoring and establish the relevant noise criteria for selected properties surrounding the project in accordance with the industry standard guidelines. Additional computer noise modelling of the project will be used to optimise the layout of the wind farm to further reduce or remove any potential noise impacts on nearby residences.

Traffic & Transport

A study to be conducted by Bega Duo Designs will assess the impact of internal roads for the project, traffic during the life of the wind farm, as well as the increased traffic demands during construction. The study will cover all foreseeable impacts of traffic including the nature and volume of traffic generated, transport routes, impact on current infrastructure and the potential for upgrading existing roads.



Cultural Heritage & Archaeology

An Indigenous and Non-Indigenous cultural heritage and archaeological assessment will be carried out by NSW Archaeology. The study will include a review of historical and relevant literature, as well as a comprehensive field survey of the project area and detailed community consultation. The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the Department of Planning (DoP) and Department for the Environment and Climate Change's (DECC) requirements. Any significant findings that suggest the project could have an impact on the cultural heritage of the area will be discussed with the appropriate people and dealt with accordingly by avoidance, mitigation or removal in accordance with the regulations.

Civil and Military Aviation

In order to identify any potential impacts on aviation in the area, we consult with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Department of Defence (DoD). These bodies also advise that we speak with Airservices Australia and the Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA), as well as local airports and airfields. The wind farm layout is designed so that it does not create a problem for any air operations in the vicinity of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

LVIA for the proposal is being undertaken by Green Bean Design (GBD). The primary purpose of the LVIA is to provide an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts from the development of the wind farm on people residing in, visiting, or travelling through areas surrounding the project site.

Landscape and visual impacts will be assessed separately, although the procedure for assessing each of them is closely linked. A clear distinction is drawn between landscape and visual impacts, where:

- Landscape impacts relate to the effects of the proposed wind farm on the physical and other characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality
- Visual impacts relate to the effects on views experienced by visual receptors (e.g. residents, tourists or motorists) and on the visual amenity experienced by those people

All components of the proposed wind farm development will be assessed as part of the LVIA process, which includes:

- Access and maintenance tracks
- Control/facilities building
- Aviation safety lighting on top of the wind turbines, if required
- An electrical substation and transmission line
- Up to 127 wind turbines, to a height of approximately 135m (to blade tip), depending on turbine model

Photograph only (no turbines shown) of the view west from Ando Road.



The assessment will involve both desktop and field studies. A desktop study of topographic maps and aerial photographs to identify potential view locations and “Landscape Units”² surrounding the wind farm, followed by onsite confirmation of these locations will be carried out. A shadow flicker and visibility assessment will be completed, followed by a determination of a visibility rating (level of potential impact) for each view location. The visibility rating for each view location is determined by reference to a number of criteria and factors including the category and sensitivity of the receptor (e.g. motorist, resident, and tourist), the context of the view, number of receptors and the approximate distance to the wind farm. Where there is found to be a potentially significant impact, mitigation options will be identified. Photomontages will be prepared to show how the proposed wind farm may appear following construction, and will include views from key viewing locations identified during the fieldwork.

Although the wind farm will be visible from a number of view locations, including road corridors and a small number of residential properties, the majority of views from residential dwellings are likely to be screened by a combination of undulating hills and tree planting, sheltering dwellings. The full assessment of landscape character and visibility will be detailed and illustrated in the LVIA report, as part of the planning application.

A visibility rating for each of the view locations will be assessed to provide an indication of the level of potential visual impact. Furthermore a cumulative assessment for the potential landscape and visual impact associated with existing or proposed wind farms in the vicinity will also be detailed in the final LVIA report.

Please complete a Public Opinion Survey and either return it at the Open Day or send by email/fax/post. Your opinion matters to us and will help shape the development of the project.

²“Landscape Unit” represents areas that are relatively consistent in terms of their key landscape elements and physical attributes and largely defined by vegetation cover, topography and drainage. Landscape units are used to define and qualify visual amenity/scenic quality, or how beautiful a landscape is.

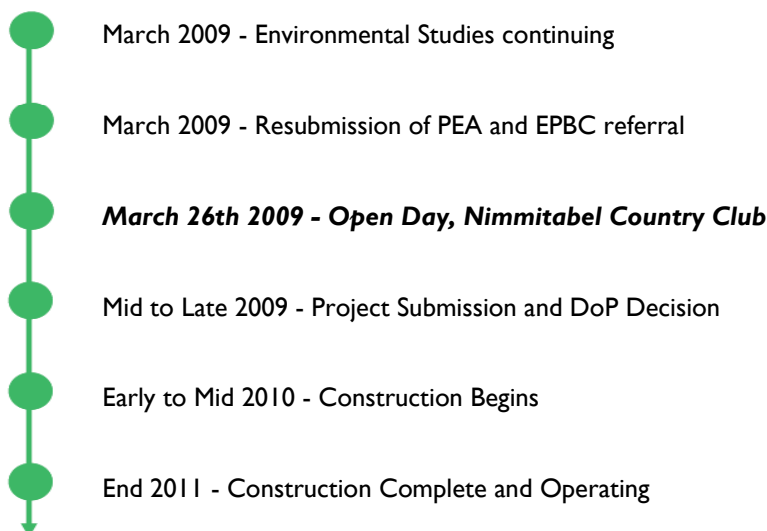
AN UPDATE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DRIVERS IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government has taken its first steps to meeting its election promise of addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Draft legislation for the expansion of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) to the Renewable Energy Target (RET) has been released. The RET will essentially operate with the same legislation as the MRET, however it will require retailers to source 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020, equaling 45,000 GWhrs. On top of the RET, the government has announced the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which is essentially a carbon tax. At this stage, the CPRS excludes agriculture, with a view to reassess its inclusion in 2013. The government has also committed more than \$1 billion to renewable and clean energy research funds.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) will be resubmitted in the coming weeks to the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) and will be available on their website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au. A submission will also be made to the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) regarding the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. As a result of resubmitting the PEA and EPBC referral, minor changes to the proposal may need to be made. Over the next few months our focus will be on completing the environmental studies and preparing the Environmental Assessment. Once submitted, the DoP will assess the project with respect to the Part 3A (Major Projects) planning process. If at the point of submission the project is in the order of 250MW or greater in capacity, then the proposal will also be assessed with respect to Critical Infrastructure legislation.

PROPOSED TIME LINE



Useful Websites

Boco Rock Wind Farm: www.bocorockwindfarm.com.au

Wind Prospect: www.windprospect.com.au

Continental Wind Partners: www.continentalwind.com

Clean Energy for Eternity: www.cleanenergyforeternity.net.au

HOW TO CONTACT US



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If you wish to participate in the community consultation, please complete a copy of our **Public Opinion Survey** or visit us at www.bocorockwindfarm.com.au.