

Community Newsletter April 2023

Boorolong Wind Farm

Squadron Energy Project Update Visual Assessment Bulletin Community Sponsorship

We are now Squadron Energy

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company that develops, operates, and owns renewable energy assets in Australia.

CWP Renewables was acquired by Squadron Energy in late 2022 and all existing CWP Renewables development and operational projects will continue as normal under the Squadron Energy brand. The change in ownership provides us with certainty and the working capital required to progress our projects.

Squadron Energy is an Andrew and Nicola Forrest owned company. We are proud to say we are Australian owned, with the mission to be a driving force in Australia's transition to a clean energy future by providing green power to our customers.



CWP Renewables CEO Jason Willoughby with Andrew Forrest



Project Update Engagement

The Boorolong Wind Farm team are continuing to engage with the local community and key stakeholders.

We are meeting with neighbours close to the proposed project site to discuss potential impacts. Each property is different, and we want to work with landowners to develop a project which is accepted by the community.

Please contact our team if you have any feedback or questions about the project.

Environmental Surveys

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement process, we carry out environmental surveys to understand the project's environmental impacts and help minimise or mitigate impacts. Extensive biodiversity surveys have been completed in line with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. These include vegetation mapping, threatened species surveys, and bird and bat surveys.

Over the next few months these surveys will continue including:

- aquatic ecology
- acoustic
- heritage
- telecommunications; and
- land surveyors will also be working along public roads near the project site.

Cultural Heritage

Squadron Energy is engaging with local First Nations stakeholders and has started a cultural values mapping exercise in the region. This helps us to understand and consider values significant to the Anaiwan people.

Cultural values mapping is a more comprehensive consideration of Aboriginal culture and heritage than what is required through the statutory approvals process.



Decommissioning

We are required to decommission the project at the end of the lease period, and this requirement is reinforced in the individual contracts held with host landowners.

A Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan will be prepared following the EIS to document the approach to removing project infrastructure and restoring the land at the end of the project's operational life. The plan will be developed in consultation with host landowners to enable infrastructure such as roads to remain for use.

Squadron Energy will have a funding mechanism in place to finance the decommissioning process.

Visual Assessment Bulletin

Boorolong Wind Farm is required to assess visual impacts in accordance with the *Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin for State Significant Wind Energy Development December 2016 (the Bulletin).*

The Bulletin outlines preliminary assessment tools that applies to both dwellings and key public viewpoints.

These tools:

- are utilised during the scoping phase of the project to provide an early indication of where placement of turbines will require further assessment and justification, and where consultation with potentially affected landowners needs to be focused
- are based on a 2-dimensional assessment of the project. Zones determine the level of assessment required to justify their placement, based on the height of the turbine and distance from the base of the turbine. These zones do not represent minimum setbacks.



Boorolong Wind Farm is assessing a maximum tip height of 300m. Using the zones this requires turbines being considered within 4km of a dwelling to undergo a detailed assessment and justification during the detailed EIS. We also assess all dwellings up to 8km from the project.

Assessing 300m high turbines does not mean that the turbines installed will be 300m. The height of the turbines actually installed is subject to the assessment process, stakeholder consultation, turbine technology selected and potential limitations regarding the installation of turbine components.

The assessment process may identify that factors such as topography, relative distance and existing vegetation may minimise or eliminate the impacts of the project. It will also propose mitigation which may include installing visual screening.

Follow the QR code to read the current visual assessment bulletin.



Community Sponsorship

Squadron Energy is proudly supporting recent and upcoming events in the New England region including:

- The trade pavilion at the 2023 Armidale & New England Show
- Wonders of Hinton Exhibition at NERAM
- Guyra Polocrosse Carnival
- Guyra Anglers Club
- NRS Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic



The Boorolong Wind Farm community sponsorship program provides funding to local community-based activities, events, and initiatives.

If your organisation is interested in participating in our community sponsorship program, please get in touch!

Our community guidelines and application form are available on our website at: squadronenergy.com/communitysponsorship





Contact us

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