# **Community Newsletter**

November 2025





## At a glance



230k

Expected homes powered



**426MW** 

**Expected capacity** 



200k

Expected tonnes of emissions avoided

# **Project update**

After receiving SEARs for the project, we are working with our consultants and landowners to complete the required technical assessments and refine the layout of wind farm ancillary infrastructure such as roads, substations, transmission lines and on-site compound areas. This process will help us finalise the survey corridor where all development activities will occur.



## Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

The Boorolong Wind Farm Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in July, and is available to view on the <u>DPHI Major Projects website</u>. DPHI requested advice from 19 regulatory agencies on key matters to be addressed. These responses can also be found on the Major Projects website.

Following review of the Scoping Report and the agency advice, DPHI issued the SEARs, which are the environmental, social and economic requirements that must be addressed in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS will be prepared by qualified, independent consultants, and will help the community, government agencies and the consent authority to make informed decisions about the project. The scope and structure of the EIS must consider the State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing an EIS (Appendix B). While the EIS is prepared, there are ongoing opportunities for input and feedback from all stakeholders.

**July 2025 Preparation of Scoping Report NSW Department of Planning,** September **Housing and Infrastructure** 2025 sets requirements (SEARs) Completion of technical We are here assessments **Public exhibition of Environmental Impact** Statement Review community and government submissions **Completion of Submissions Report** Assessment and determination

### **New England REZ Transmission Project update**

In October, EnergyCo released <u>an update</u> for the <u>New England REZ Transmission Project</u>. There are changes to the project corridor south of the Central South Hub, near Walcha, as well as the location of the North Hub within the adjacent property to the west of Boorolong Wind Farm. These changes can be viewed on EnergyCo's <u>online interactive map</u>.

EnergyCo is holding a number of information sessions, including one in Armidale on Wednesday 12 November 2025. Details on the update and the information sessions can be found on the <a href="EnergyCo">EnergyCo</a> website.



## **Community engagement**

In June, we hosted a project community drop-in session in Armidale, which was well-attended. We also held pop-up information sessions in Invergowrie, Black Mountain and at the Armidale Sunday market during August. It was great to meet with so many community members and talk about our plans with you. We appreciate all feedback received, which will help inform the development of the project and the EIS.

If you have any feedback you wish to share, or would like to discuss any aspect of the project with us, please reach out to the team using contact details at the end of this newsletter.



## **Dragons Community Blitz**

Did you know that Squadron Energy is the major sponsor of the St George Illawarra Dragons NRL and NRLW teams? In September, we teamed up with past and present Dragons players - Nathan Blacklock, Tom Eisenhuth, and Dylan Egan - to visit six schools across Uralla, Armidale, Tingha, Black Mountain and Guyra. The players joined us for school sessions and a morning walk and coffee in Inverell, where they spoke with students about health, wellbeing, and the importance of teamwork.

The sessions were a hit with students who were thrilled to meet legends of the game and engage in meaningful conversations.

You can watch an interview with Nathan during this visit to his hometown of Tingha at <u>A Special Homecoming: Blacklock heads to Tingha | Dragons</u>.

We're proud to partner with the Dragons to deliver the Community Blitz program and help young people be the best they can be - on and off the field.

### **FAQs**

Curious about wind energy and how wind farms work?

We have put together answers to some our most <u>frequently asked</u> questions.







### Community investment survey - what we heard

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback in the Boorolong Wind Farm Community Investment Program Survey.

#### Who we heard from



**320** 

People who completed the online survey



**85%** 

Aged 45 or older and lived in the Armidale region

Twenty people completed the online survey, which ran from 10 August to 14 September 2025. The survey was shared with project newsletter subscribers and at pop-up stalls in Invergowrie, Black Mountain and the Armidale Farmers Market. Most respondents (85%) were aged 45 or older and lived in the Armidale region.

### Top priorities for investment

Respondents most frequently chose energy reliability and affordability initiatives (10%), roads and transport (10%), biodiversity and environment (9%) and community organisations, events and infrastructure (9%) as top priorities for community investment. All 18 options received support from at least one respondent, showing diverse community interests.



**Energy reliability and** affordability initiatives



Roads and transport

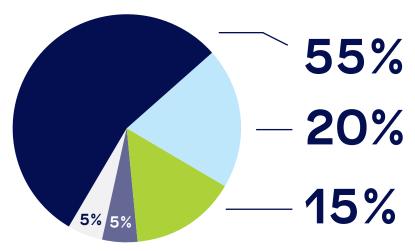


**Biodiversity and environment** 



Community organisations, events and infrastructure

### Where funds should go



supports distributing funds regionally across the Armidale Regional and **Uralla Shire LGAs** 

> supports a mix of local and regional spending

supports focusing funds locally within 10km of the project

Most respondents (55%) supported distributing funds regionally across the Armidale Regional and Uralla Shire LGAs. Another 20% supported a mix of local and regional spending. 15% preferred focusing funds locally within 10km of the project. Smaller groups (5% each) supported allocating funds purely based on community need or suggested other approaches.

#### How decisions should be made



Transparency in decision-making



Community involvement in decisions



Long-term impact and legacy

Respondents ranked transparency in decisionmaking as the top priority, followed by community involvement in decisions and long-term impact and legacy.

Respondents also emphasised the need for longlasting, significant projects, fair representation in decision-making, local input, safeguards against dominance by larger interests, limits on repeat funding and respect for local priorities.

### How you want to engage





**16%** 



16%



Online surveys or feedback forms

**Project website** 

Community reference group **Email newsletters** 

Respondents preferred online surveys or feedback forms (18%), the project website (16%), a community reference group (16%) and email newsletters (14%) as engagement channels. Over half (55%) of respondents also expressed interest in participating in future engagement about community investment activities.

#### Ideas we heard

Respondents suggested bill rebates for people living near the project, upgrades to local facilities like Armidale Pool, Golf Club and Tennis Club, First Nations cultural education, better telecommunications and support for the RFS as community investment opportunities.



#### What's next

This survey will help shape a future Community Investment Program for Boorolong Wind Farm. We will continue to engage with the community and stakeholders to identify opportunities and priorities as the project progresses. We will share updates on what we are hearing and let you know about future opportunities to provide feedback.

You can also share your feedback or ideas at any time with the project team by emailing boorolongwind@squadronenergy.com

# **Community sponsorship**

We recently sponsored the 2025 <u>Armidale Vinnies Community Sleepout</u>. A total of \$37,000 was raised at the event, which will go directly to supporting participants of Fresh Start – a program which helps homeless people to build healthy social networks, and to establish a stable and safe living environment for themselves and their families.

Our sponsorship program is ongoing, and we encourage local groups to apply. Squadron Energy is keen to support projects that foster community connection and promote local economic development.

If you are interested in applying, the application form and sponsorship guidelines can be found on the community sponsorship page.





### Register for updates

Please scan the QR code and select "Contact" to subscribe to our latest news.

The project team is regularly in the New England region and is happy to meet with the community regarding the project. If you would like to meet with us, please reach out.

### Contact us

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