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Ballyrogan Wind Farm – Questions on Notice

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1 Tatyoon Hall drop-in session responses to Questions on Notice


In June 2025, Squadron Energy hosted two community drop-in sessions for the Ballyrogan Wind Farm. The first session took place at Alexandra Oval in Ararat from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm as a drop-in event. Following feedback from this session, the format was adapted for the second event, held at Tatyoon Hall from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Instead of a drop-in style, the session was run as a structured presentation by Squadron Energy based on issues heard at the first session, with opportunity for questions and answers. Table 1 provides responses to questions on notice.

Table 1: Responses to questions on notice

Question	Response
Could Squadron Energy provide clarity on confidentiality clauses in host land agreements?	<p>Agreements between Squadron Energy and landowners are private, negotiated arrangements, and it is in the interests of both parties for the terms of agreements, which include personal and commercially sensitive information, to remain confidential between the parties.</p> <p>However, the agreements between Squadron Energy and host landowners do not include clauses requiring confidentiality.</p>
Why wasn't there earlier consultation with neighbours and the community?	<p>Squadron Energy needs to be confident in the proposed project before engaging with the wider community. This means that we have secured land under agreement, validated the wind resource and completed preliminary assessments of development constraints and mitigations.</p> <p>This approach ensures that the information shared is accurate and that community conversations are meaningful and well-informed.</p> <p>We are several years away from securing an approval for the proposed project and a financial investment decision.</p> <p>Now that we have a project, we are able to increase our engagement with wider groups and will continue this throughout the planning process.</p>
More information on/response to population decline, community health survey.	<p>Squadron Energy is committed to establishing a sustained presence within the communities where it operates, delivering enduring benefits to those communities over the long term. Population decline and community health will be addressed in a comprehensive Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which will be prepared should the project be deemed to require an Environmental Effects Statement. The SIA will be prepared by a qualified, independent sociologist, and will include engagement with local stakeholders.</p> <p>If approved, the project is forecast to bring a considerable construction workforce and once constructed, operational staff will number in the order of 65 FTE jobs (direct and indirect).</p> <p>In addition, Squadron Energy's Community Benefits Program will inject approximately \$41 million dollars (includes annual escalation) into the community over the life of the project (based on its proposed capacity) to build social capital.</p>
How will Squadron Energy address the mental health impacts on the community?	<p>Squadron Energy acknowledges that the change associated with the project may contribute to mental health concerns for some local residents and landholders. The health and wellbeing impacts will be assessed as part of the Social Impact Assessment for the project.</p> <p>We are several years away from securing an approval for the proposed project and a financial investment decision. We will continue to provide</p>

Question	Response
	the community with information regarding the proposed project and through this process, Squadron Energy aims to alleviate concerns.
What are PCBs and the health implications of BPA in turbines?	<p>The importation of Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) was banned in 1975, and they are not used in wind turbines.</p> <p>According to the Australian Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Bisphenol A (BPA) release from turbine blades is not supported by evidence, due to the stable and bound nature of the compound in the resin.</p> <p>More information can be found here: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) epa.vic.gov.au</p>
Will Squadron Energy notify the public when the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) Referral is live?	<p>Yes, Squadron Energy will publicly notify the community when the EES referral is live, through project newsletters and updates.</p> <p>You can sign up to receive these updates via the Ballyrogan website.</p> <p>Ballyrogan Wind Farm Squadron Energy</p>
Provide links to public complaints registers for Squadron's operational sites	<p>The complaints register for Squadron's operational wind farms can be viewed at each wind farm's website. For example, the complaints register for Bango Wind Farm can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.squadronenergy.com/our-projects/bango-wind-farm.</p>
Will the Stakeholder Engagement Plan be uploaded to the website?	<p>The Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been uploaded to the Ballyrogan website and can be viewed under the heading Publicly Available Documents, Plans Strategies and Programs on the website:</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p>
What are the battery impacts, including what happens when they catch fire? What are the by-products that come off a battery when burned?	<p>While lithium-ion technology is widely used in the market, the Ballyrogan Battery Project has not yet selected a final battery type. Alternative options under consideration could also include flow batteries.</p> <p>Although the risk of fire associated with battery infrastructure is considered low, there have been instances where faults, particularly in lithium-based systems, have led to thermal runaway and challenging fire events.</p> <p>As such, a Wind farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) Risk Management Plan (including Fire Safety Study) will form part of the approval process, and the final design of the battery will be required to meet all technical standards and Country Fire Authority requirements.</p>
What is the minimum number of turbines for the project to go ahead?	<p>The project design is an iterative process, informed by technical studies and ongoing feedback throughout the development phase. The viability of the project may be influenced by market conditions, construction costs, and environmental factors.</p>
How do buffer zones (for residences) impact land values?	<p>The impacts of wind farms on property values are a concern that frequently emerges amongst communities adjacent to proposed wind energy projects. Despite concerns around property value decline, studies examining Australian and international property values of townships and farm homes have shown no clear evidence of adverse effects.</p>

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	An independent report undertaken by Urbis in July 2016, examining wind projects across Victoria and NSW, could not identify any substantive trend indicating that wind farms negatively impact property values.
How long does it take to offset the carbon footprint of the turbines? (lifecyle assessment)	<p>The embodied energy of a Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) is different for each model, and the energy created by a turbine depends on the location of the installation, but studies have found that on average, it takes approx. nine months for a WTG to replace the energy used in its manufacture, transport and installation.</p> <p>For example, the return on energy for a Vestas V162-6.2MW was found to be 6.5 months in low wind conditions This can be interpreted as a V162-6.2MW turbine will return 37 times more energy back than it consumed over its entire life cycle.</p> <p>The report can be found here: LCA: V162-6.2MW</p>
Why wasn't the Head of Stakeholder Engagement in attendance at the Tatyoon Open Day?	<p>Our Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Community Relations, Kath Elliott, attended the meeting on Thursday, 26 June, however, was unable to attend the meeting on Monday, 30 June due to being called to the Newcastle District Court to present for jury service.</p> <p>Kath extends her apologies to the community. She would have been in attendance, but work commitments are not an acceptable excuse for being released from jury service.</p>
Share a summary of notes taken by project team members.	Yes, the themes from both open days will be shared publicly on the website.
What is the impact on community cohesion?	<p>The Social and Economic Impact Assessment prepared for the proposed project will examine community impacts and provide recommended mitigation measures.</p> <p>Squadron Energy's community investment initiatives ensure that benefits from the project reach the wider community, instead of just host landowners and their neighbours. This includes a community benefit fund of \$1,050 per megawatt, per annum from the start of construction for the life of the project.</p> <p>For a project of a 1GW size, this means approximately \$1 million in annual funding for the community. Squadron works with the community to identify opportunities for local benefit sharing projects and initiatives.</p>
What Public Liability Insurance does Squadron Energy hold, and how does the project impact on adjoining landowner's premium/policy?	<p>The project will not affect the adjoining landowners' insurance cover. If damage was to occur to neighbouring land due to Squadron Energy's actions, Squadron Energy will be responsible for compensating neighbouring landowners for loss or damages for which we are responsible. There is corresponding insurance in place to cover these costs.</p> <p>Squadron Energy holds industry standard public liability insurance for all its assets, throughout all phases of a project (development, construction, operations and decommissioning), to protect against harm to persons or property, including where the cause originates off-site. Squadron Energy would seek to recover any loss under our own insurance, not our neighbours.</p> <p>A fact sheet from the Clean Energy Council provides general information about insurance. https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/for-consumers/fact-sheets/impacts-and-benefits-to-consumers-get-the-facts/public-liability-insurance-landholder-protection</p>

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Is the oil used in the turbines carcinogenic?	Oil is used in turbines primarily as a lubricant in components such as gearboxes and bearings. These lubricants are typically synthetic oils and are formulated to be non-carcinogenic.
Share the survey QR code as well as a link to complete the consultation survey	<p>The QR code for the community survey was shared at both drop-in sessions. Survey results are currently being collated and will be provided to an expert consultant, who will review the responses to identify key themes for Squadron to address.</p> <p>There will be further opportunities to participate in the detailed Social Impact Assessment as the project progresses. This will include optional interviews with a qualified sociologist and additional community surveys, which will help inform potential social mitigations and opportunities.</p> <p>Ballyrogan Wind Farm – Community Survey</p> 
Will Alastair recommend the project be cancelled?	Squadron Energy is continuing with the development process for the Ballyrogan Wind Farm.
When will Squadron Energy take responsibility for the impact/division already created in the community?	<p>Squadron Energy is committed to establishing a sustained presence within the communities where it operates, delivering enduring benefits to those communities over the long term.</p> <p>Examples of how the business has delivered on this commitment are here: Frequently Squadron Energy.</p> <p>We are willing to engage and work closely with the community on specific long-term opportunities that are relevant and advantageous for the local community.</p>

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company. Proudly Australian owned, our mission is to be a driving force in Australia's transition to a clean energy future by providing green power to our customers.

We develop, operate and own renewable energy assets in Australia, with 2 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in operation and under construction.

With proven experience and expertise across the project lifecycle, we work with local communities and our customers to lead the transition to Australia's clean energy future.

Squadron Energy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

