

Introducing the proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm to the local community

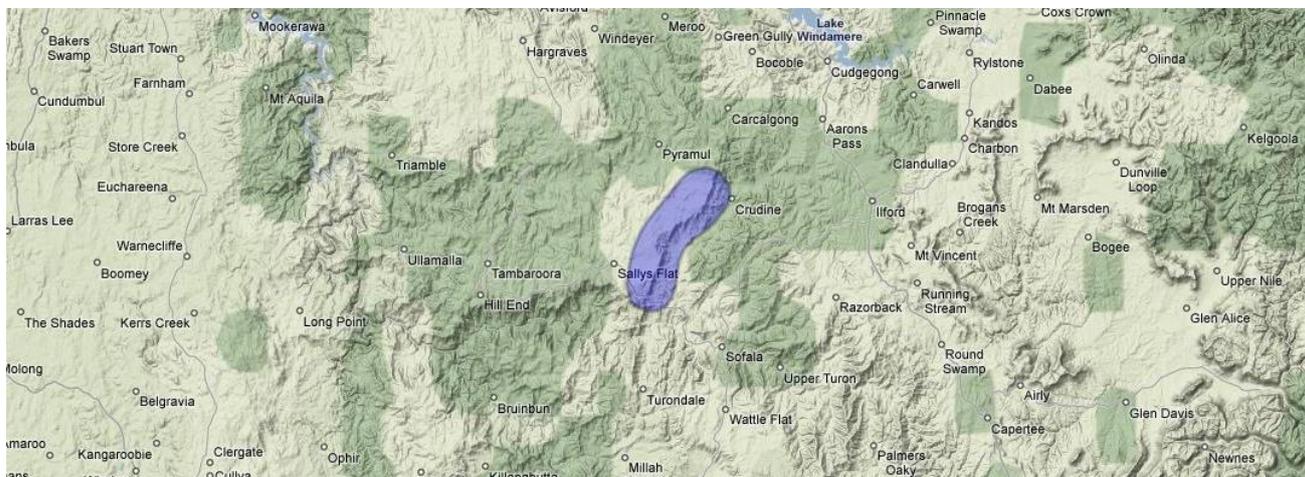
Dear Resident,

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd is assessing the potential for a wind farm development on rural land near Pyramul, New South Wales, midway between Mudgee and Bathurst (see map below). The proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm could accommodate up to 110 wind turbines and produce approximately 560 gigawatt hours (GWh) of clean, renewable energy, enough to supply approximately 80,000 average homes across Australia¹.

Within this newsletter, we would like to introduce Wind Prospect CWP and the proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm project to the community. The project is in the early stages of development and 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 communicate with 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 CWP development team. In addition to this we will go 'live' with an interactive project-specific website which will allow you to keep up to date with latest news regarding the wind farm.

Map showing the location of the proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (blue area) in relation to nearby towns.



Indicative view of the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm facing West along the Crudine Road (example turbine layout shown).



¹ based on an indicative capacity factor of c.40% from 160 MW installed, 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 Group (WP) and Continental Wind Partners (CWP). WP undertake all aspects of wind energy development, including design, construction, operation and commercial services, with offices in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia and China. With over 18 years of successful development within the industry, WP has been involved in over 2,500 MW of approved wind farms. WP's domestic operation lays claim to being the most successful developer in Australia, having achieved planning approval for 12 wind farms totalling over 1,100 MW, of which 565 MW is operating or under construction. Our most recent planning success is in New South Wales with the Boco Rock Wind Farm (260 MW) located approximately 40 km south of Cooma.

CWP were established in 2007 to finance the development of wind farms in Romania and Poland. They have since grown to be a leader in renewable energy development, expanding into the rest of Europe and Australia, with projects totalling over 4,500 MW including the largest project in Europe, the 600 MW Fantanele wind farm now operating in Romania.

Photomontage of Boco Rock Wind Farm, one of four wind clusters approved for development totaling 260 MW.



DRIVERS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government's mandated Renewable Energy Target (RET) is a scheme which has been established to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable energy sources to achieve a commitment of a 20 percent share of renewables in Australia's electricity supply by 2020. The RET places a legal liability on wholesale purchases of electricity (e.g. electricity retailers) to proportionally contribute to an additional 45,000 GWh of renewable energy each year.

The steep 'ramp up' profile of the requirements of RET up to 2020 and the significant lead time which is required to complete renewable energy developments and construction, requires the commencement of new projects now.

WHY WIND?

- Australia has a world class wind resource which can provide comparatively priced, clean and 'forecastable' 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.

CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm could consist of up to 106 wind turbines with a rated capacity between 1.5 to 3.4 MW each. The wind turbines would be three bladed, multi-pitch, horizontal axis machines, with a maximum height of approximately 156 m (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 access tracks, overhead and underground electrical cabling, substations, permanent storage compounds, wind measuring masts plus temporary facilities during the construction phase. An external power line would also be required to connect to the nearby transmission network. The project 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 undertaking regular services inline with the selected wind turbine.

The life span of a wind farm is usually 20-25 years, after which time there would be an option to either decommission the site, restoring the area to its previous land use with regard to consent conditions and lease requirements, or to upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational life.

WHY WE SELECTED THE CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM SITE?

Crudine Ridge 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 assessed New South Wales considering these factors, in addition to the market drivers, and consider the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm site to be a prime location for a wind farm development.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) and will be available on their website shortly 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 further 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

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. We are exploring the use of BioBanking to mitigate for habitat losses, which allows landowners to set aside land in return for payments. If you are interested in assisting with this, please take a look at the BioBanking website below and/or contact us directly for more information.

Useful Websites

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm: www.crudineridgewindfarm.com.au

Wind Prospect: www.windprospect.com

Continental Wind Partners: www.continentalwind.com

Clean Energy Council: www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au

BioBanking: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking



HOW TO CONTACT US



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