

APPENDIX 8

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Newsletter 1, March 2011
Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Newsletter 2, July 2011
Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Newsletter 3, February 2012
Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Pty Ltd

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)

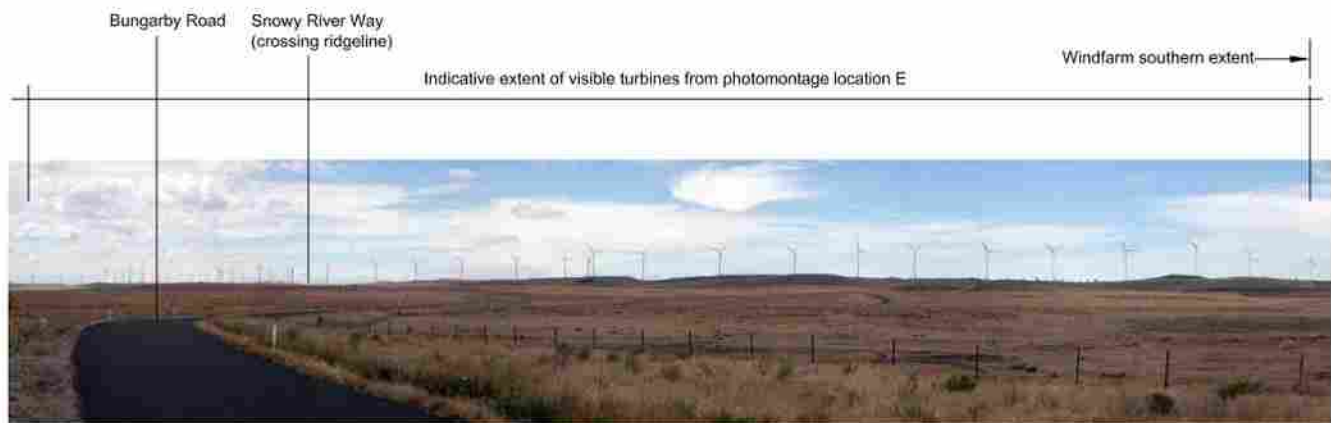
WIND PROSPECT CWP PTY LTD AND THE WIND PROSPECT GROUP

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 purchasers 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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Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd
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Newcastle 2300 NSW

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Email: ed.mounsey@windprospect.com.au
Website: 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.



Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

June/July 2011

Newsletter #2

Public Open Day - 13th July, Pyramul Hall, 2.30 - 7.30pm

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd will be holding a Public Open Day for the proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm on the 13th July at Pyramul Hall, from 2.30 to 7.30pm.

The proposed wind farm is located south of Pyramul, New South Wales, midway between Mudgee and Bathurst and could accommodate up to 106 wind turbines - enough to produce approximately 560 gigawatt hours (GWh) annually of clean, renewable energy, capable of supply approximately 80,000 average homes across Australia.

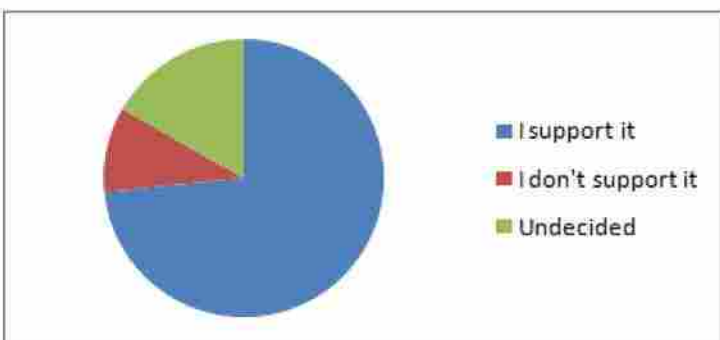
The Public Open Day will take the form of large scale displays, including maps of both proposed wind farm layouts, photomontages of the proposed project from a range of locations, and other information relating to what has been done to date and what is still to be done. A number of Wind Prospect CWP staff members will also be on hand to liaise with and answer questions.

Since the project was announced in March 2011 we have received a high degree of support for the project both formally through response to our initial Public Opinion Survey (POS), and informally through conversations with local members of the community. The statistics below relate to two key questions posed in the initial POS, for which we have received 31 and 30 responses respectively.

Do you approve of wind being used to generate electricity?



On hearing of our proposal, what was your initial view?



In response to this support, we have recently commissioned a range of additional assessments required for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment. This will support a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure towards the end of the year. These assessments include Landscape, Noise, Ecology, Cultural Heritage, Traffic and Transport, Aviation, Communications, Fire and Bushfire, through the appointment of independent consultants.

To further enhance our understanding of the area, our appointed Landscape and Visual Assessment consultant has prepared a set of questions (overleaf). Please take time to consider these questions and return responses via the means provided.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of the proposed project.

Ed Mounsey
Head of Development, Wind Prospect CWP
T: 02 4013 4640
W: www.crudineridgewindfarm.com.au



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How close do you live to the proposed wind farm?

0 - 5km

5 - 15km

Over 15km

2. Which attributes of the landscape surrounding the proposed wind farm do you value most? Please list any you can think of.

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3. Do you visit the landscape surrounding the proposed wind farm for recreational activities? Please list.

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4. Do you travel along any of the local roads surrounding the proposed wind farm on a regular basis (either daily or several times a week)? Are there any memorable views you experience from these road corridors?

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5. Where would you go to see a distant or panoramic view from the landscape surrounding the wind farm? Please list any locations you can think of.

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6. Are there any features or landmarks within the landscape surrounding the wind farm that have a specific historic or personal memory for you? Please list any you can think of.

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7. Over time, have you noticed any physical changes in the landscape surrounding the proposed wind farm? Please list any you can think of.

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8. Do you think you will have a view of the wind farm from your house or within your property? If yes, please can you provide the name of your property.

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9. Do you believe that the wind farm will have a positive, negative, or neutral impact on the landscape?

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10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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Please post/email/fax your completed copy of the questionnaire to:

Post: Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd, PO Box 1708, Newcastle, NSW 2300

Email: ed.mounsey@wpcwp.com.au Fax: 02 4926 2154 Phone: 02 4013 4640

www.crudineridgewindfarm.com.au



Public Open Day #2 - 28th February, Pyramul Hall, 2.30 - 7.00pm

Wind Prospect CWP Pty Ltd will be holding a Public Open Day for the proposed Crudine Ridge Wind Farm on the 28th February at Pyramul Hall, from 2.30 to 7.00pm.

The proposed wind farm is located south of Pyramul, midway between Mudgee and Bathurst and could accommodate up to 106 wind turbines - enough to produce approximately 560 gigawatt hours (GWh) annually of clean, renewable energy, capable of supplying approximately 80,000 average homes across Australia.

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



The Public Open Day will take the form of large scale displays, including maps of the two proposed wind farm layouts, photomontages of the proposed project from a range of locations, and other information relating to what has been done to date and what is still to be done. A number of Wind Prospect CWP staff members will also be on hand to liaise with and answer questions.

Over the last six months we have been talking to the local community and interested stakeholders to get further input into the proposal, and at the same time concluded key assessments in the following areas:

- Landscape and Visual
- Noise
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage
- Traffic and Transport
- Aviation
- Communication Services
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Fire and Bushfire Risk
- Water
- Socio-Economic



Following the Public Open Day, our aim is to finalise the Environmental Assessment for submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) in March/April 2012.

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)

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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 with a maximum height of approximately 160 m (i.e. from the base of the tower to blade tip when the blade is in the vertical position).

The wind farm would also consist of 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.

DRAFT NSW PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR WIND FARMS

The NSW Government recently published Draft Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms (Draft Guidelines) on the 23rd December 2011. The Draft Guidelines are currently on Public Exhibition until the 14th March 2012 and are therefore open to public comment.

One of the proposals put forward in the Draft Guidelines is for wind farm proponents to establish a Community Consultation Committee (CCC). The purpose of a CCC would be to provide a forum for open discussion between Wind Prospect CWP, the community, Local Government and other stakeholders. In particular, the CCC would provide a forum to:

- Establish good working relationships between the proponent and the community;
- Provide for ongoing communication and information dissemination;
- Discuss community concerns and resolutions; and
- Advise on the allocation of Community Enhancement Funds.

In preparing for the Draft Guidelines being incorporated, Wind Prospect CWP would like to seek nominations from interested community representatives and other stakeholders who would be willing to sit on the CCC. Nomination forms will be made available at the Public Open Day or through contacting us directly via the details provided below. Nominations will close 30th April 2012.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Our aim is to finalise the Environmental Assessment for submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) in March/April 2012. Following a period of 'Adequacy Review', the Environmental Assessment will be on Public Exhibition for a period of up to 60 days. During this period submissions can be made by the general public. Details of how submissions can be lodged will be provided via the DoPI website www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

At the end of the Public Exhibition period the DoPI will provide us with all of the submissions they have received. We will then prepare a 'Response to Submissions / Preferred Project Report' for the DoPI to assess in parallel with the detail of the Environmental Assessment. This process can be lengthy and it may take until the end of the year before a decision is provided by the DoPI.

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



Please post/email/fax your comments to us via:

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