

At a Glance:

Wind Turbine Construction Schedule

- APR completion 2 weeks ahead of schedule.
- windfarm construction works now recommenced with initial focus on environmental controls and track reinstatement.
- foundation pours planned to commence in late April 2020.
- Wind Turbine component deliveries planned to commence in May/June 2020.
- commissioning from September 2020.
- practical completion targeted for March 2021.

WTG Transportation Plans

- Specialist Transport Provider to conduct trial run of APR in near future.
- Expected duration for slowest loads along APR to site is 45-60 minutes.
- Passing places have been constructed along APR as part of the upgrade, in addition to a waiting area close to the Castlereagh junction.
- Proposed schedule for Newcastle departures is based on avoiding peak times on APR, with 4 – 5 deliveries per day excluding Sundays.



Aarons Pass Road Update.

APR Upgrade completed to satisfaction of MWRC and Practical Completion Certificate issued by MWRC on this basis.

Department of Primary Industry and Environment conducted regular announced and unannounced spot checks of APR during construction.

Dilapidation survey conducted of Aarons Pass Road to enable comparison following completion of all Wind Turbine deliveries to site.

S138 remains in place to enable maintenance as required during the windfarm construction, post dilapidation and any associated works to be completed at end of project, at which stage S138 will be returned and Handover back to MWRC.

Final blade swept path tree pruning/select removal to occur prior to WTG blade deliveries.



Latest Update

As everyone is aware now of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would just like to update you on how we are managing works on site. Construction is continuing, and we have made good progress. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will take appropriate actions where required, this will include less face to face interactions with stakeholders and the community but we still encourage everyone to contact us via phone or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Brendan McAvoy

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

Community Newsletter
March 2020

Project Update

Welcome

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. You have probably noticed a lot of activity on Aarons Pass Road over the last few months and I thank you for your patience through this upgrade. I am pleased to announce that we have now completed the upgrade to the road and received sign off from Mid-Western Regional Council in February. For those who use Aarons Pass Road, I am sure you will agree the road is a much better drive. With Aarons Pass Road now complete the focus turns to remobilisation back onto the main site and to complete the remainder of the works. I hope that the information in the newsletter provides a clearer picture of the new timeframes and upcoming activities, but as always, myself and my team are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Brendan McAvoy
Head of Construction

Construction Update

GEZ is pleased to advise that the Aarons Pass Road upgrade has been completed and signed off by Mid-Western Regional Council 2 weeks ahead of schedule to enable wind farm construction recommencement March 2020.

Earthworks construction remains the key focus for our site team which will focus all resources at the northern area the site and progressing south over the coming months. We anticipate the first turbine foundation to be constructed May 2020 to facilitate the arrival of turbine components during June/July 2020. The project is aiming to commence turbine commissioning September 2020 working towards construction completion within the first quarter 2021.

In the month prior to the first turbine deliveries, the project will communicate delivery schedule forecasts, with weekly updates provided via the project website during the estimated 4 month delivery phase.



The delivery schedule will be based on avoiding peak road use on Aarons Pass Road, with 4 – 5 deliveries per day excluding Sundays. 20 passing bays have been incorporated along Aarons Pass Road to assist in keeping any waiting times to a minimum (approx. 10mins or less).

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AARONS PASS ROAD COMPLETION

- Aarons Pass Road (APR) is now complete.
- Mid-Western Regional Council are now the official contacts for information, works requests and issues.
- Please continue to exercise safe driving and certainly drive to the conditions. There will be continuing heavy vehicles traversing Aarons Pass Road so caution on bends will be required.



What is the green coloured application on some sections of the road network?

The green coloured product is a degradable stabilising polymer that is sprayed on areas that are deemed higher erosion risks prior to them being rehabilitated. The polymer helps to provide short term stabilization of the soil to minimise erosion or dispersal during rain events.

Mulch stabilization on lower graded batters?

For other minor batters, along APR the placement of mulch over the soil surface is also used to assist with soil stabilisation during wet weather events. Mulch is also used in some areas as temporary sediment checks.



The straw coloured material applied to steeper roadside batters is called Enviro Straw which is an Australian produced hydromulch product. This blend includes a calcium and fertilizer product hydraulic growth medium and Bonded Fibre Matrix. The straw product is thermally treated to remove any weeds, seeds or pathogens during its production.

- Notification to the local community will be sent out directly regarding the schedule for Wind Turbine components to start arriving. We have been given information that the transport of these components along Aarons Pass Road will *not* be during peak period usage.

During the course of road construction, measures to assist stabilisation and rehabilitation of the drainage and road side batters were a key focus for the project team with consultation sought and subsequent approvals obtained from a highly regarded soil and water specialist who is also an IECA (International Erosion Control Association – Australasia) board member.

(Cont...) This product is then sprayed onto the batter with a bonding agent (Envirobond) that glues the mulch together and binds it to the soil batter and seed mix.



What is the rock that can be seen in sections of the road drainage network?

There are sections of the road network specifically located in low points such as a culvert crossings where overland and drainage flow can concentrate. Rock erosion protection is installed to stabilise areas to help prevent erosion, and intermittent rock checks in some areas of the drains help to reduce erosion via slowing of water flow during rain events.



Environmental Update

What seed has been used during rehabilitation?

During the construction and rehabilitation phase of Aarons Pass Road soil samples were collected and analysed by a NATA accredited lab. The soil test results were sent to a local agronomist who has recommended a rehabilitation seed mix containing regionally suitable grasses, clover and cover crop varieties along with native grass species

Vegetation removal?

The vast majority of vegetation removal has been completed along Aarons Pass Road to allow for the completion of the civil works component of the upgrade. Further detailed pruning and removal of select vegetation will be required during the OSOM deliveries commencing on site. This will occur at areas along the alignment, particularly where blade sweep has potential to impact on vegetation.

Why are there large woody debris left adjacent to the road works?

A component of the development consent requires that large woody debris be placed adjacent to the work corridor. This is to assist with providing habitat for local fauna, including those disturbed during the vegetation removal process. The large woody debris mostly consisted of flagged habitat trees that were surveyed prior to works commencing. Remaining vegetation that was removed during construction was mulched and placed on batters as stabilisation.

Upgrading of Aarons Pass Road and Bombandi Road are now complete. We are now looking forward to the recommencement of construction of the Wind Turbine and Transmission Lines. The construction of transmission lines are currently undertaking preconstruction dilapidation surveys and some fencing and gate construction. All construction will be beginning on the Northern section of the project and traveling to the South.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding construction, please do not hesitate to contact the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Project Call Centre on 1300 524 463 or via email info@crudineridgewindfarm.com.au

Community Consultative Committee

Call for Nominations

Nominations are open for appointment for community members to the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee.

Positions are available for *three people* who live locally, or, are members of a stakeholder group (community, environment, Aboriginal or industry) to join the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee.

Nominations are welcome from the community from individuals *not* deriving any financial benefit from the project.

Your role as a committee member is voluntary.

You will be expected to contribute constructively to committee discussions, attend around four meetings a year, and communicate information about the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm project with the broader community.

For more information about the establishment and operation of CCCs, please visit

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/CommunityConsultativeCommittees>

If you would like to apply, download a copy of the relevant nomination form from the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

<https://www.crudineridgewindfarm.com.au/community/>

Or contact the Independent Chair, Michael Silver OAM, Independent Chair Crudine Ridge Wind Farm CCC, P.O. Box 37, Gunnedah NSW 2380, P: 0427 723 747

E: crudineridgeccc@bigpond.com

Applications must be lodged by Monday, 6 April 2020. Please send applications directly to the Independent Chairperson.



OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Through the CRWF, CWP Renewables support initiatives that strengthen the local community, through programs that make a positive and lasting contribution and enhance the local region and surrounding areas.

A Sponsorship Committee has been appointed to assess applications and determine how best to allocate funds and in-kind contributions to maximise benefits for the community.

The Guidelines and Application form are available from Crudine Ridge Windfarm website although to access these directly you can click on the link below. [Application Form](#)

For information regarding the Community Sponsorship program contact CWP Renewables Community Engagement Officer Marie Hensley 0428 225 417 email Marie.Hensley@cwprenewables.com