Mallee Wind Farm

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #1 – AUGUST 2022

The Proposal: Mallee Wind Farm

The Mallee Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project, located approximately 16 kilometers to the north-east of Buronga in the Wentworth Shire Local Government Area of NSW. The project site is within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

The wind farm is in its early stages of development by Spark Renewables, a leading developer and long-term owner and operator of renewable energy projects.

We are holding our first community drop-in session from **3pm-6pm on Tuesday, 23 August 2022** at the Midway Centre in Buronga. Please see last page of this newsletter for further details.

Who is Spark Renewables?

Spark Renewables is a developer, and long-term owner and operator of renewable energy assets. Our operational portfolio includes the 100MW Bomen Solar Farm near Wagga Wagga, which commenced operations in 2020, alongside a diversified portfolio of wind, solar and storage developments, in excess of 3 gigawatts (GW).

Spark Renewables is owned by the Spark Infrastructure Group, an owner of critical energy assets, including generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure across Australia.



SPARK RENEWABLES

Key Facts



Planning Status

Proposal Announcement Next step: Scoping Report



Generation Capacity

Up to 1000 megawatts (MW) with battery storage to provide firming



Annual Power

Up to 450,000 houses powered annually*

Offsetting up to 2 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually**



Grid Connection

The project will connect to the National Electricity Market via transmission infrastructure upgraded as part of Project Energy Connect



Community

Establishment of a community benefit sharing program to support the local community



*Based on household consumption of 6700kWh/year **National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (DCCEEW, 2021)

Why This Site?

The proposed site has an excellent wind resource and the land where turbines are proposed is relatively flat and cleared. The turbine locations would integrate with existing cropping activities allowing multiple uses for the land.

In addition, there is a very low density of housing near the site with the closest towns of Gol Gol and Buronga approximately 13 km and 16 km respectively, from the nearest turbine location.

The proposed site is within the South-West REZ connecting to the National Electricity Market via Project EnergyConnect, a proposed interconnector linking the NSW, South Australian and Victorian electricity transmission networks.



Renewable Energy Zones (REZs)

REZs will group new wind and solar power generation into locations where it can be efficiently stored and transmitted across NSW.

Five zones have so far been identified and will keep NSW electricity reliable as coal-fired power stations retire, delivering large amounts of new energy to power our regions and cities.

These REZs will help deliver lower wholesale electricity costs and place downward pressure on customer bills through increased competition, while also supporting new local jobs and business opportunities during construction and operation. Find out more at:

https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/index.php/rene wable-energy-zones/



Indicative Development Timeline



What approvals are required?

The project is considered a State Significant Development and will require development consent under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act).

The development application is to be accompanied by a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will include comprehensive assessments identifying the impacts of the project and how to best manage these impacts.

A detailed Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will also be prepared as part of the EIS. The SIA will include a comprehensive community engagement program and be prepared following the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (2021).

The project may also require approval under the federal Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

What is a Scoping Report?

A Scoping Report is a formal request to the DPE to issue Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The Scoping Report outlines the proposed project and identifies important issues that may require further assessment, consultation and/or technical studies.

Who is developing the EIS and SIA?

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants have been engaged by Spark Renewables to prepare the EIS and SIA for the proposed project. Umwelt will be consulting with the community alongside Spark Renewables to inform the preparation of the EIS and SIA.

How to provide feedback?

Spark Renewables is committed to ensuring that the project engages in meaningful consultation to enable all stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposal and raise any concerns that should be considered through the development process. An engagement program has been designed to deliver authentic, open, early, responsive, respectful and detailed engagement with the community, council, government and all stakeholders to this project in accordance with the NSW DPE Undertaking Engagement Guideline for State Significant Projects (2021).

What is proposed

Wind

Wind turbine generators, typically spaced 500 - 1000 metres apart and connected via underground cables

Battery

A containerised battery energy storage system built within the wind farm enabling electricity to be stored and then exported as needed

Height

Modern wind turbines have a tower (hub) height up to 180 metres and blade length up to 100 metres

Indicative studies

- Noise and vibration
- Social impact assessment
- Visual amenity
- Shadow flicker
- **Biodiversitv**
- Aboriginal heritage
- European heritage
- Traffic and access
- Contamination
- Flooding and hydrology
- Soils
- **Bushfire**
- Waste
- Aviation
- Utilities
- Electromagnetic fields
- Land use
- Cumulative impacts

Department of

Planning &

Environment

Planning

proposal

Commission

decides the

Planning Process



and government preliminary and community technical studies undertaken

♠

We are here

Requirements (SEARs)

technical studies to inform the EIS and SIA

Public exhibition for agency and community

comment

issues raised about the EIS in a Response to Submissions report

Community consultation

The Mallee Wind Farm project is in the early stages of development and will undergo a rigorous planning and assessment process prior to being approved. As part of this, we will undertake extensive community consultation and encourage all stakeholders and community members to get involved in this process. This will occur prior to a formal development application being submitted to planning authorities.



Sign up to our newsletters at the project website www.malleewindfarm.com



Come along to our drop-in information session at the Midway Centre

Need more information? Ask us about having a one-on-one meeting or call

Community benefit-sharing



Community fund to be established for the life of the project

Local input to inform and shape the long-term community fund

Supporting the community, local businesses, and local facilities with greening initiatives

Construction & operations



Traditional Owners:

Focus on engaging First Nations people and businesses to support the project construction and operation



Local sourcing:

Committed to engaging with local workers and suppliers of goods and services wherever possible and will set targets to measure our achievement of this

At Spark Renewables, we care about the land we build on and are committed to supporting the local communities we become a part of. We have a track record of delivering diverse benefits to our local communities, including providing training and employment opportunities and prioritising local procurement of goods and services.

Drop-in session



You are welcome to drop-in to our first information session at any time to meet the Spark Renewables team, ask questions and learn about the proposed Mallee Wind Farm. We are hosting a face-to-face session at:

THE MIDWAY CENTRE, 6 Midway Drive, Buronga

on Tuesday, 23rd August 2022

from 3pm - 6pm

Contact



Call us toll free at 1300 271 419



Email info@malleewindfarm.com



Sign up to community newsletters on our website at www.malleewindfarm.com

Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and a signatory to the CEC's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.





Scan here or go to our website to complete a brief survey and give us your feedback



www.surveymonkey.com/r/Mallee-Wind-Farm-Survey