

As notified in the February edition of our newsletter, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being compiled for submission.

We are progressing well with the detailed studies required to support the EIS and the project design. The studies we are currently undertaking include biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, noise, traffic, transport, and visual impact assessments.

Meteorological masts

A meteorological mast is a free-standing tower that contains instruments to measure wind speed and temperature. One meteorological mast was installed on the Baldon Wind Farm site in February of 2023, and two additional masts will be installed this month (September 2023). The masts will continue to monitor the wind speed in preparation for EIS lodgement.



Image 1.1 The meteorological mast that was installed in February of this year.

Biodiversity

Detailed ecology and heritage site surveys have been ongoing since February and will continue across the Spring months.



Image 1.2 Members of the project team have been visiting the site to conduct surveys

Local sponsorship opportunities

We are thrilled to be partnering with local community groups by providing ongoing sponsorship opportunities. We have been lucky enough to be involved in the Moulamein Festival, Moulamein Easter Fair, and the Moulamein Bowls Tournament so far this year - but are always looking for more opportunities to get involved in! If you wish to apply for sponsorship,



Image 1.3 The project team at the Moulamein Festival in March of this year.

please email info@baldonwindfarm.com.

Baldon Wind Farm

The proposed Baldon Wind Farm would be located 13km north of Moulamein, 55km east of Balranald, and 75km southwest of Hay. The project would sit within the Murray River and Hay Shire Council areas and is adjacent to the Edward River Council to the east.

The proposed site lies within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (SWREZ). It would contribute significantly to the NSW Government's net-zero emissions by 2050 target sending clean, carbon-free renewable power into the NSW electricity grid.

The Baldon Wind Farm would include:

- Approximately 180 wind turbines exporting power to the national electricity market (NEM)
- Associated infrastructure such as roads, drainage, cabling and substations
- Battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- Associated construction facilities
- Accommodation camp for construction
- Operations and maintenance facilities

Goldwind Australia

Goldwind is a global leader in manufacturing and installing wind turbines and can be found on six of our seven continents. With 24 years' experience in developing wind turbines, Goldwind has installed over 44,000 wind turbines worldwide - totalling over 89 GW of generation.

Goldwind Australia was established in 2009 with offices located in both Sydney and Melbourne. Goldwind Australia has over 1.8 GW of wind and solar farm projects operating or in development across the country and is responsible for developing the Baldon Wind Farm.

How to learn more and provide feedback

It is important to us that the community has opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed project. There will be future opportunities throughout the year for near neighbours, Moulamein, Swan Hill, Balranald, and Hay residents along with the wider community members to come and chat with a member of the Project Team to learn more about the Proposal and have any questions answered. You can also provide feedback by completing the online community feedback survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaldonWindFarm> which will inform the Social Impact Assessment within the EIA. For further information, please visit <https://baldonwindfarm.com>.

Project Benefits

The Baldon Wind Farm project has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million and is therefore deemed a State Significant Development (SSD). It would bring significant investment to the local area during construction and would create jobs, diversify income and increase revenue in local service providers such as food, fuel, lodging and tourism operators in the local area.

Once the project is operational, benefits would continue with long-term jobs, ongoing operations and maintenance contracts and the establishment of community benefit schemes.

The Proposal would also significantly contribute towards the NSW Government's aim of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. It will provide clean energy supply for the NSW energy grid, providing stable, sustainable energy for the future.

Local Benefit Sharing

Goldwind Australia is always looking for ways to invest in the community to help support local initiatives and improvements. We would love to hear your ideas on local priorities and how to share project benefits in the community.

Find out more

Your ongoing input is important to us. Should you have any questions about the project or what we can do to support the local community, please send an email to info@baldonwindfarm.com or complete the community feedback form available online at <https://baldonwindfarm.com/>. You can also reach the team by phone by calling [1800 050 209](tel:1800050209).

Please share your ideas on how we can invest in your community by attending the community information drop-in session or by emailing info@baldonwindfarm.com.

1. Baldon Wind Farm

The Proposal is within the Hay Plains area in the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (SWREZ). The wind farm would be located on freehold land used for sheep grazing in an area over 42,000 hectares in size. The site is located 15km north of Moulamein, 55km east of Balranald and 75km southwest of Hay in NSW. The proposed site sits within the Murray River and Hay Shire Council areas and is adjacent to the Edward River Council area to the east.

2. What is the project status?

The project is in the early stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The project is considered State Significant Development (SSD) under Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. Consent is being sought under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979. The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which has started the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stage.

The EIS stage involves detailed site investigations and technical assessments including biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, noise, traffic, transport, and visual impact assessments. The results of these technical assessments as well as community engagement outcomes will assist to refine the preliminary project infrastructure layout.

3. How many wind turbines would the proposed site have?

Investigations are underway and early assessments indicate that this project could host between 150 and 200 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. The initial Scoping Report has applied for approximately 162 wind turbines on the site. Investigations are ongoing to confirm the number of turbines to be included in the EIS.

4. How much electricity would a wind farm of this size generate and many homes in NSW would this power?

Given the number of turbines highlighted in early assessments, the site could produce over 1000MW of electricity. This is equivalent to powering over 700,000 homes in NSW.

5. What is wind energy and how is it created?

Wind energy generates electricity from the power of the wind. Wind power is the cheapest source of large-scale renewable energy and is clean and extremely reliable. When a wind turbine captures the power of the wind it generates electricity which is transferred to the onsite substation where it is connected to the national electricity grid. Once on the national electricity grid, the electricity travels through transmission lines that distribute the power to homes and businesses.

6. What is the land currently being used for? Is it used for Agricultural purposes?

The land is currently used for sheep grazing. There is an existing 220kV power line that runs through the centre of the site.

7. How long is the lifecycle of a wind farm?

Generally, a wind farm will operate for approximately 25-30 years.

8. What will happen to the turbines and the land at the wind farm's end of life?

Once the wind turbines have reached their end of usable life, the wind turbines would be decommissioned and removed (and recycled), or the wind farm may be refurbished. If the wind farm is to be decommissioned, the land would be rehabilitated and returned to its original use. The decommissioning process is an important part of the development application process, and decommissioning and rehabilitation objectives are required to be met as part of the Development Consent, outlined by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

9. Will the wind turbines scar the current natural landscape?

It is important to acknowledge that wind turbines do have a visual impact on the landscape. The EIA process assesses the potential impact and provides the planning authority information to make an informed decision on the application. However, we will work with the local community and surrounding landholders throughout the process to ensure the visual impact is minimised or mitigated where possible.

10. Are wind turbines noisy?

Like anything that moves – including farm machinery, vehicles and trucks – wind turbines do generate some sound. Noise varies on the position of the turbine, the shape of the site, where the listener may be situated and the direction the wind may be blowing.

A specialist noise consultant will carry out a formal noise assessment which will be included in the EIS. This will ensure that potential noise impacts to neighbouring properties meet the minimum noise requirements and that potential noise impacts are appropriately mitigated. Once the development is operational, noise levels on the wind turbines would be tested again to ensure compliance.

11. Will Cultural Heritage be preserved and protected?

Preserving and protecting Cultural Heritage is a priority for the project and we are committed to adhering to all legislation to achieve this.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including field surveys, will be completed and form part of the EIS. This will include rigorous community engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties and other community members throughout the community engagement process to ensure due diligence and to maintain strong relationships and respect with First Nations peoples and cultures.

12. Do wind turbines impact native flora and fauna?

We have engaged specialist consultants who are undertaking flora and fauna surveys to understand the ecological characteristics of the site. The project is committed to minimising impacts on native flora and fauna by designing the infrastructure to allow species to continue to thrive during the construction and operation phases. During these phases, management plans will be developed to ensure this compliance is maintained.

13. Do wind turbines affect livestock operations?

The site is currently being used for sheep grazing and this farming operation would continue throughout the project lifecycle. There is no evidence to say that wind turbines negatively impact livestock operations.

14. Is it possible that the wind turbines make it harder to fight a fire should one start on site?

There is no evidence to suggest that wind farms increase fire risks. Wind turbines are treated like any other piece of infrastructure that needs to be managed adequately. The wind farm roads would make it easier for emergency vehicles to access and drive around the site should a fire start.

15. How will Goldwind engage with the community and key stakeholders during the EIS phase?

Goldwind is committed to working with the community and other key stakeholders as part of the EIS process and as part of the wider project. Stakeholders will be given an opportunity to have their say at several engagements within the local region. The community will have both face-to-face and virtual opportunities to ask any questions, discuss concerns and community benefit sharing options with Goldwind.

