



Sapphire

WIND FARM



Newsletter
September, 2018





Photography by Jeremy Brown

Transport

Oversize vehicles are currently transporting turbine components to the Sapphire Wind Farm from the Port of Newcastle to the site located between Glen Innes and Inverell. The transports pass through Tamworth and Glen Innes. After Glen Innes they travel along the Gwydir Highway, turn right onto Waterloo Road and make their way to the Western Feeder Road.

More than 60 oversize loads of turbine components are still to be transported from Newcastle, via the New England Highway, in the coming months.

Travellers are advised to expect delays while this is occurring. In the interest of safety, we would ask that travellers please observe all warning and speed restriction signs, including directions from escort vehicles and police.

The Sapphire Wind Farm team aims to keep traffic disruption to a minimum during the construction phase of the project.

Arrival of Turbine Components

Since the turbine components began arriving on the site in late September, 72 bases (stage 1) and 63 full towers (stage 2) have been erected. The towers are strategically craned into position using two of the largest mobile cranes currently operating in Australia.

The \$600 million Sapphire Wind Farm currently has the tallest turbines in New South Wales, with a height of 200m from the ground to the tip of the blade. Once complete the 270MW project will produce enough electricity to power up to 115,000 homes.

During the construction phase, it is our intention to provide as much information as possible to minimise the inconvenience. A transportation schedule outlining indicative timing of deliveries is updated weekly and is available on our website.

Community Consultative Committee - An open community forum

Our Community Consultative Committee is our direct link with the community: host landowners, community members, representatives from both Inverell and Glen Innes Severn Shire Councils, and project members.

We come together for regular meetings to:

- Foster positive working relationships
- Provide an open forum for discussion
- Share information
- Respond to any questions or concerns.

Current members of the committee comprise;

Lisa Andrews (Independent Chair):

Anthony Alliston, Inverell Shire Council

Cr Steve Toms, Mayor Glen Innes Severn Shire Council

Ben Swan, host landowner:

Neil Eigeland, community representative:

Chris Voll, Church Communities Australia:

Mike Norton, community representative

Annabel Sides, community representative

Cr Stewart Berryman, alternate delegate for Inverell Shire Council

David Williamson, CWP Renewables

The next meeting is scheduled for 30th October, 2018.



Community Benefit Fund

Our Community Benefit Fund will give back to the community in a tangible, long-term way. Once Sapphire Wind Farm is built and energy is being generated, more than \$3.75 million will be invested within community projects over the 20-year life of the wind farm.

This equates to Sapphire Wind Farm contributing \$187,500 per annum to the local community over the life of the wind farm. This fund will deliver long lasting results and will be of great assistance to the hardworking community organizations driving local projects.

Inverell Council has ratified the Committee Members for the fund and are now in the process of establishing the administration structure with Sapphire Wind Farm. We expect the first round of applications to be called for in early 2019.



Transport photo by Jeremy Brown



Sapphire Wind Farm Public Open Day - Sunday 21st October, 2018

The “National Wind Farm Open Day” has been developed by the Clean Energy Council and the Australian Wind Alliance. On Sunday 21st October, 2018 Sapphire Wind Farm will be one of ten Wind Farms opening to showcase their facilities to the general public.

Sapphire Wind Farm will celebrate the day by providing coach tours of the Wind Farm and holding a family fun day at Victoria Park, Inverell. Coaches will depart Victoria Park from 7:30am running every 30 minutes, with the last bus leaving Inverell at 3:30pm.

The tour which takes 3 hours will take you along the Gwydir Highway onto Waterloo Road, past the all new TransGrid Substation and up to one of 4 Wind Turbines which will be made available on the day. Visitors will then depart the bus and have 20 minutes for viewing and photo opportunities. Sapphire Wind Farm will have Construction, Service and Operational Staff on hand to answer any questions you may have.

There will be lots of family friendly activities on offer at Victoria Park. There'll be a free jumping castle and face painting for the kids, CWP Renewables and it's Consortium Partners Zenviron and Vestas together with TransGrid will be exhibiting on the day. Food and beverages will also be available to purchase throughout the event.

- We advise visitors planning on taking the tour to arrive early.
- All tour participants will need to complete a short safety induction before boarding.
- Due to safety requirements you must wear enclosed flat shoes on the day; persons wearing thongs, sandals and open toe footwear will be refused entry.
- Please wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants.
- With the warmer October weather we would encourage everyone to slip, slop, slap on the day.

Please note:

Access to the Sapphire Wind Farm will only be by bus. All private vehicles that arrive onsite will be turned away by security. The only way to visit the Wind Farm is by joining a Coach Tour.



Will be opening its gates for

WIND FARM OPEN DAY

Sunday 21 October 2018



To find out more visit
sapphirewindfarm.com.au



★ Free family fun & exhibitions ★
- Bus Tours from Inverell -

Face Painting | Jumping Castle | Exhibitions

7:30am - 3:30pm
At Victoria Park Inverell



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- All tour participants will need to complete a short safety induction.
- Due to safety requirements you must wear enclosed flat shoes on the day.
- Please wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants.
- We would encourage everyone to slip, slop, slap on the day.

Important:

All private vehicles will be turned away by security.
The only way to access the Wind Farm is by the Coach Tours

Community Investment Testing

The Community Investment Scheme is an Australian first pioneered by the Sapphire Wind Farm. It is a way for the local community to invest money into the wind farm and participate in the financial benefits from the sale of renewable electricity.

Last year we had what's called the "Discovery Phase", to ascertain the community interest in the scheme. The Sapphire Wind Farm hosted a series of "Discovery Sessions" across the New England Norwest. Sessions in Inverell, Glen Innes, Wellingrove, Moree, Tamworth and Armidale. A survey was also undertaken to gauge the interest in investing directly into a large-scale commercial wind farm.

The results of the survey contained in the "Community Investment Testing Report" developed by Akin Consulting is available on our website.

The key outcomes of the survey were:

- 337 respondents – 80% local residents
- \$5,357,500 pledged
- Very positive community sentiment
- Significant regional and national media coverage

Due to the overwhelming interest in the Community Investment Scheme, the board of Sapphire Wind Farm has decided to go ahead and implement Australia's first Community Investment Scheme. Sapphire Wind Farm is currently working with Atkin Consulting on the Implementation Phase for this exciting scheme.

Please check our website for more details, updates and upcoming events.



One Worker's idea - delivers one fantastic result.

Every morning the Teams working on the Sapphire Wind Farm meet to hold a Safety Pre-Start for the day, at one meeting last week a rigger asked the question "can we do some fund raising to help the drought effected farmers out?".

Following his request, the subcontractors and workers gathered together and came up with a plan to run a raffle and collection at the site wide BBQ. The day was a success, workers have already raised over \$1600 with another round of fundraising planned for next week.

The key companies onsite being: Vestas, Zenviron, CWP and Partners Group have also joined the cause and are matching the funds raised by workers dollar for dollar. Sapphire Wind Farm will be donating these funds to the Buy a Bale, New England-Norwest with hay set to be distributed throughout the Inverell and Glen Innes Severn areas.

We encourage farmers in the local area to register online with Buy a Bale, New England-Norwest on the website <https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/>



Sapphire Solar Farm

Project approval from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment was granted on the 16th August 2018, which has set the path for construction commencing later this year or during the first quarter of 2019.

Pending final contractual agreement, it is intended that Sapphire Solar Farm will be delivered by the same consortia as Sapphire Wind Farm, notably Vestas and Zenviro. As such we encourage all local business and service providers to remain in contact with the consortia to maximise the opportunity for ongoing work on Sapphire Solar Farm.

Further updates will be provided at the next SWF CCC 30th October, 2018 and later in the year as construction timing becomes clearer.

Connect with Us

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