

Bendenine Wind Farm

Bowning and District Progress Association Meeting

Community meeting | 16 July 2025

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Acknowledgement of Country

Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Bendenine Wind Farm is proposed. We honour their ongoing connection to the land and waters, and we are committed to fostering respectful, collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities across all our projects.



Introductions

Developer



Ben Purcell
Managing Director

Brad Croxford
Bendenine Wind Farm
Project Manager

Michael Sale
Regional Development
Manager

Project partner



Cara Layton
Head of Planning,
Environment and
Stakeholder Relations

Lead technical consultant



Michele Ferguson
Social Consultant

Meg Brown
Social Consultant

Community engagement



Rosie Pritchard
Community
Engagement Lead

About Wind Prospect

- **Established in the UK in the early 1990s** and wholly owned by our staff and directors – now solely focused on Australian market
- Dedicated project developer with more than 25 years experience in sourcing and developing many wind farm sites that are now operational across Australia
- Recognise stakeholder engagement as fundamental to the success of our projects and our communication values are underpinned by fairness and transparency

22 wind farm developments approved
7 currently under development



Partnering throughout the project lifecycle



With support from



Site identification	Energy studies	Specialist studies	Planning and environment	Commercials and procurement	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
• Desktop assessment of site suitability • Engagement with landholders • Site visit(s) • Landholder agreements • Feasibility studies	• Wind monitoring • Energy modelling • Site investigations • Layout development • Grid access	• Biodiversity • Cultural heritage • Noise • Shadow flicker • Landscape and visual • Aviation • Electromagnetic interference (EMI) • Traffic impacts • Risk (e.g., bushfire)	• Development / Planning Permit Application(s) • Environmental referrals and assessments • Formal public exhibition and comment process	• Engineering and design • Geotechnical studies • Grid connection agreement • Procurement • Offtake • Financing • Financial investment decision	• Public road upgrades • Site establishment • Civil and electrical balance of plant • Turbine installation • Grid connection • Community benefit scheme established	• Wind farm generates electricity • Ongoing maintenance • Environmental compliance (e.g. bird, bat and noise monitoring) • Ongoing community investment	• Removal of aboveground infrastructure • Revegetation



* Indicative timeframes only, each project has its unique set of risks and opportunities

Mint Renewables, partnering for a better future

Mint is a new business,
with strong experience and
committed investment.



- Formed in late 2022
- Highly capable team
- 100% Australian operation. Melbourne based
- Collectively we have worked on more than half the large-scale wind farm projects built in Australia
- Long-term partnership approach with landowners and the wider community
- Funded and motivated to develop, construct, own and operate quality renewable energy and storage assets

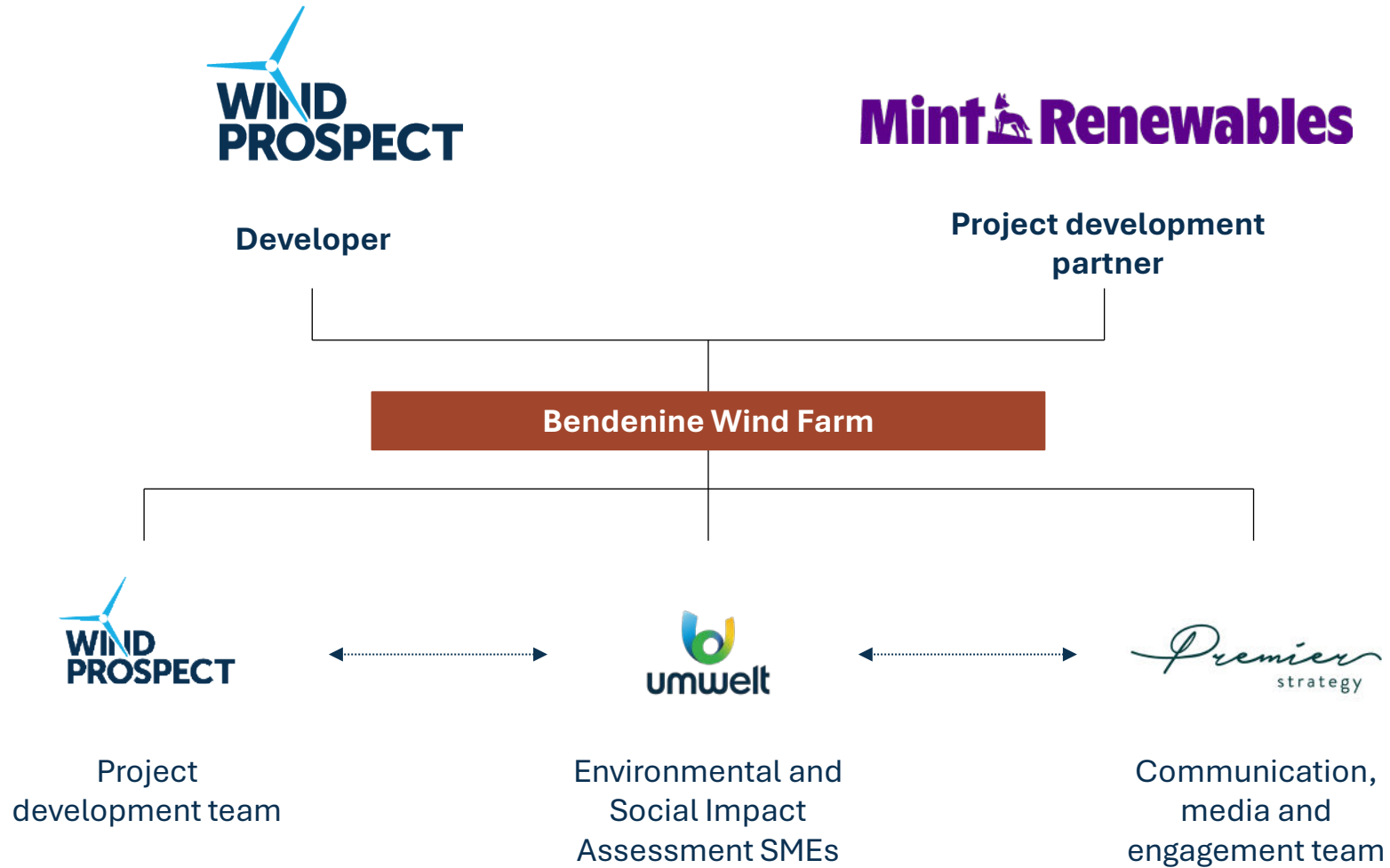


Scoping phase development



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Scoping phase development team

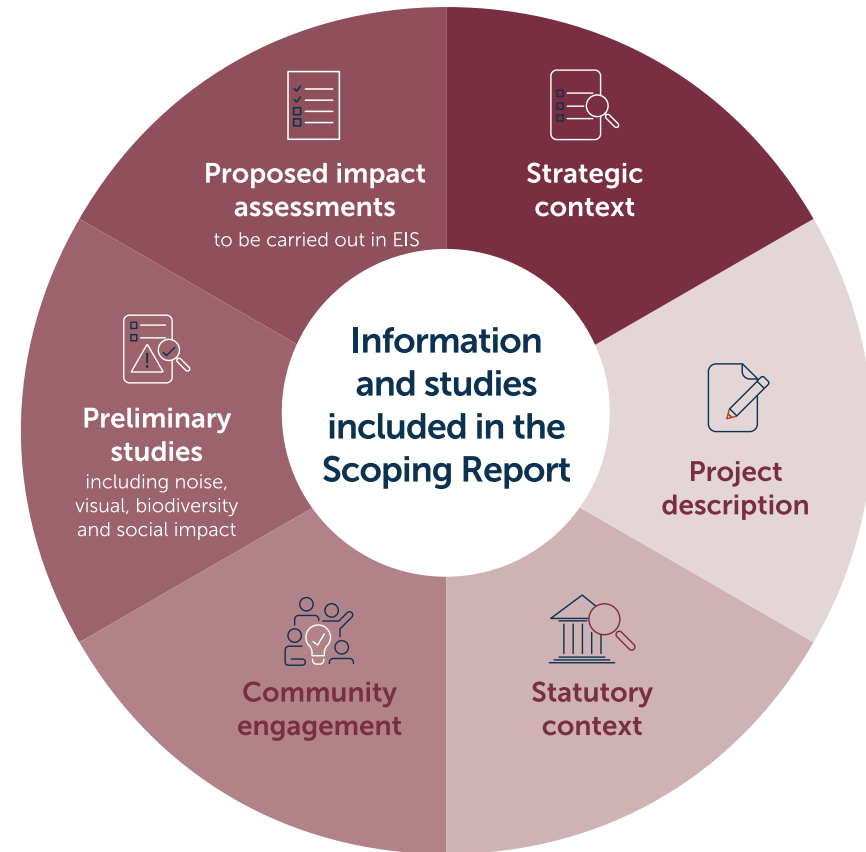


How the studies are being carried out

As part of the **NSW Government State Significant Development** Application, extensive studies are completed during the Scoping and EIS development phases

- Scoping phase environmental and social studies are considered **preliminary assessments** and help NSW DPHI determine whether a development can proceed
- The scoping phase assessment timeframe for wind energy developments is around 12 months
- If SEARs are issued by the DPHI, the team would undertake more **comprehensive** assessments
- These EIS assessments must meet any requirements set out in the SEARs, and generally take around 18-24 to complete
- **Community engagement is essential** to all development phases and integral to the NSW government assessment and determination of a Project

What is included in a Scoping Report?



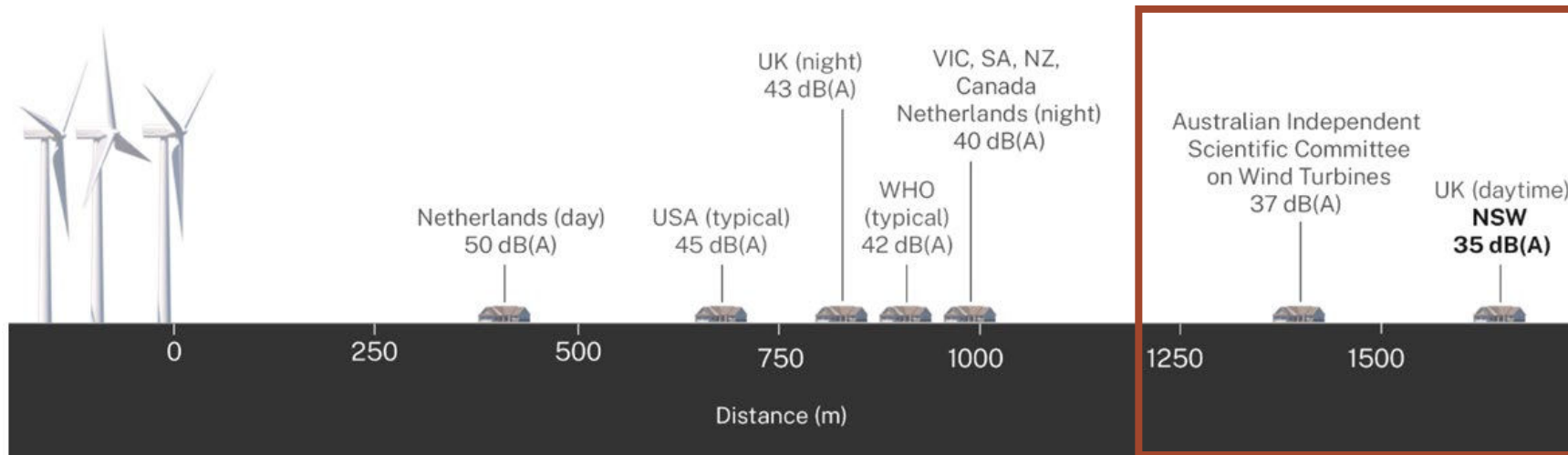
Spotlight on: Visual Impact Assessment



Visual prominence of 250m high turbines at varying distances

- A Preliminary Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) for Scoping is being carried out by Moir – NSW based landscape, urban design and architectural consultancy
- We are addressing community concerns regarding visual amenity by bringing forward the next stage of assessment work ahead of schedule
- Visual impacts vary depending on turbine size, distance from a viewpoint and number of visible turbines
- The Project has applied a **3.5km setback** from each turbine in residentially zoned areas of Binalong and Bowning
- **Minimum setback of at least 1.7km** for all neighbour dwellings with the current layout
- The full VIA will be carried out as part of the EIS phase
- The VIA is one of several important assessments that are used to inform the Project design
- Community feedback is vital to the assessment approach

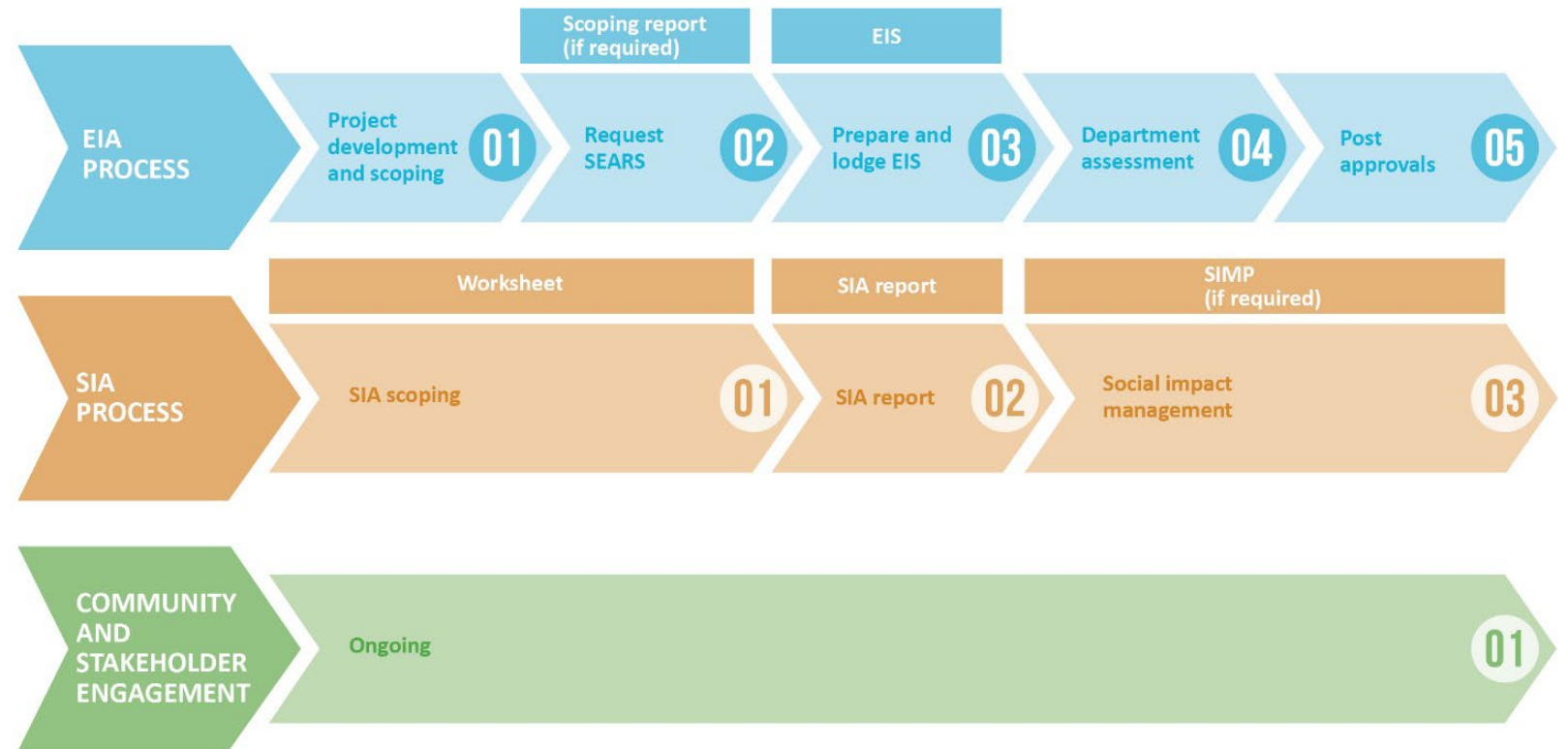
Spotlight on: Noise Impact Assessment



Distances at which compliance with different noise standards should occur

- NSW has conservative noise criteria compared to other jurisdictions
- In NSW, we must demonstrate that noise levels don't exceed 35dB(A) under any operational conditions
- Assessment must consider cumulative effects, including from existing or proposed wind energy projects
- Sonus is completing the preliminary noise impact assessment for the Project
- A detailed noise impact assessment is carried out in the **EIS phases**

Social Impact Assessment



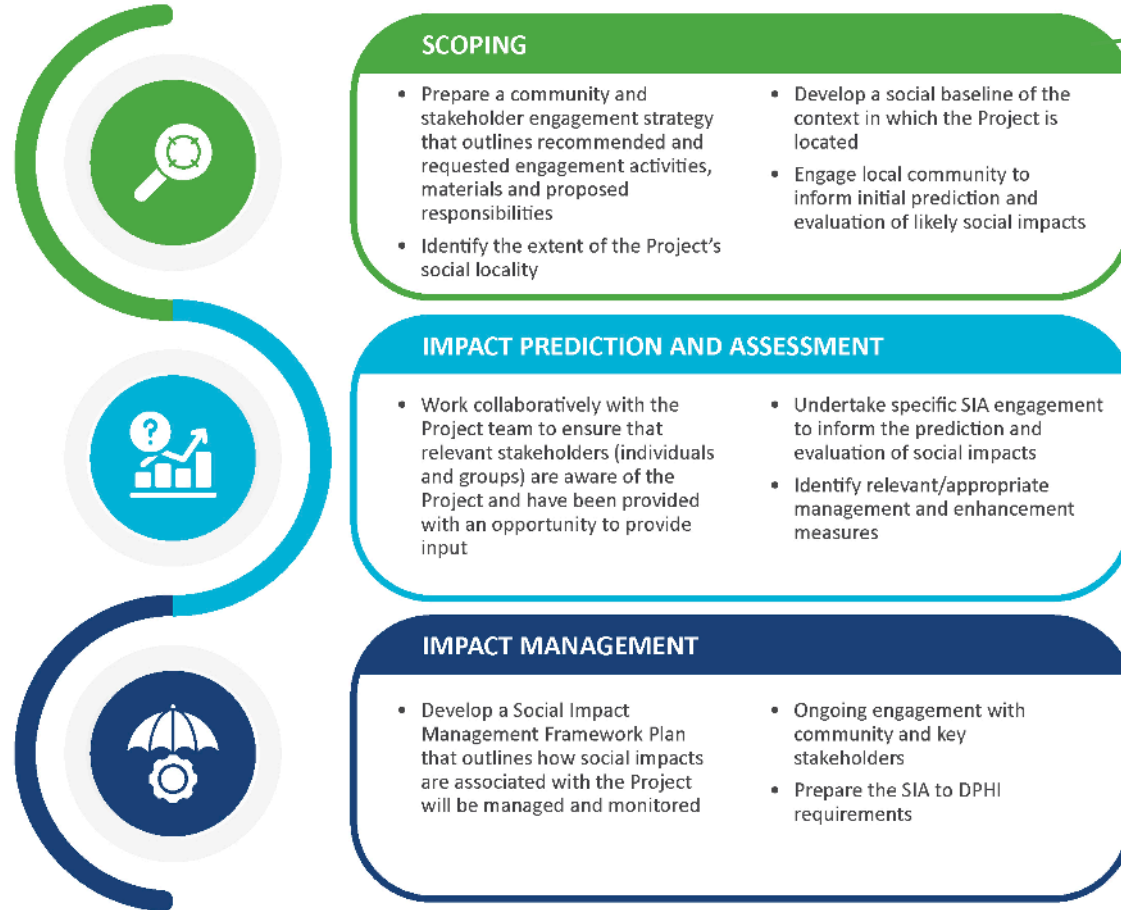
Social Impact Assessment

Social impacts can be:

- direct and indirect
- tangible and more intangible (e.g. change in sense of place and community)
- positive and negative
- reflect people's experience of development



Social Impact Assessment process



We are here

The aim of the SISR is to gain an understanding of the existing community context where the Project is proposed, to identify potential social impacts (negative and positive) before they arise and identify ways in which the Project may be designed to avoid and minimise impacts.

The SISR and SIA are developed based on **primary data** (from engagement activities) and **secondary data**.

SIA Guideline expectations

Impartial:

Uses a fair, unbiased manner and follows relevant ethical standards.

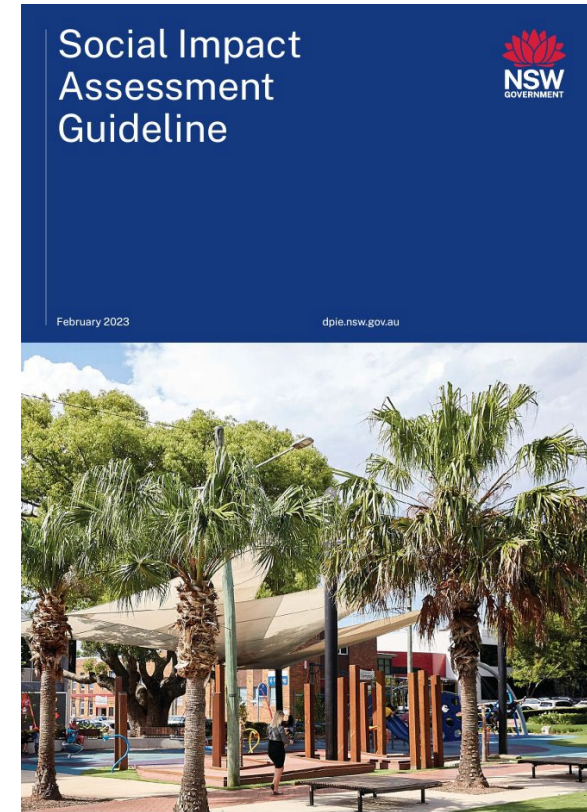
Inclusive:

Seeks to hear, understand and respect the perspectives of all potentially affected people. Uses respectful, meaningful and effective engagement tailored to the needs of those being engaged (eg: being culturally sensitive and accessible).

Transparent:

Explains, justifies and makes available information, methods and assumptions so people can see how their input has been considered.

DPHI is increasingly expecting to see practitioners collecting primary data, through engagement, to inform SIAs





Site selection and indicative turbine layout



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NSW Renewable energy context

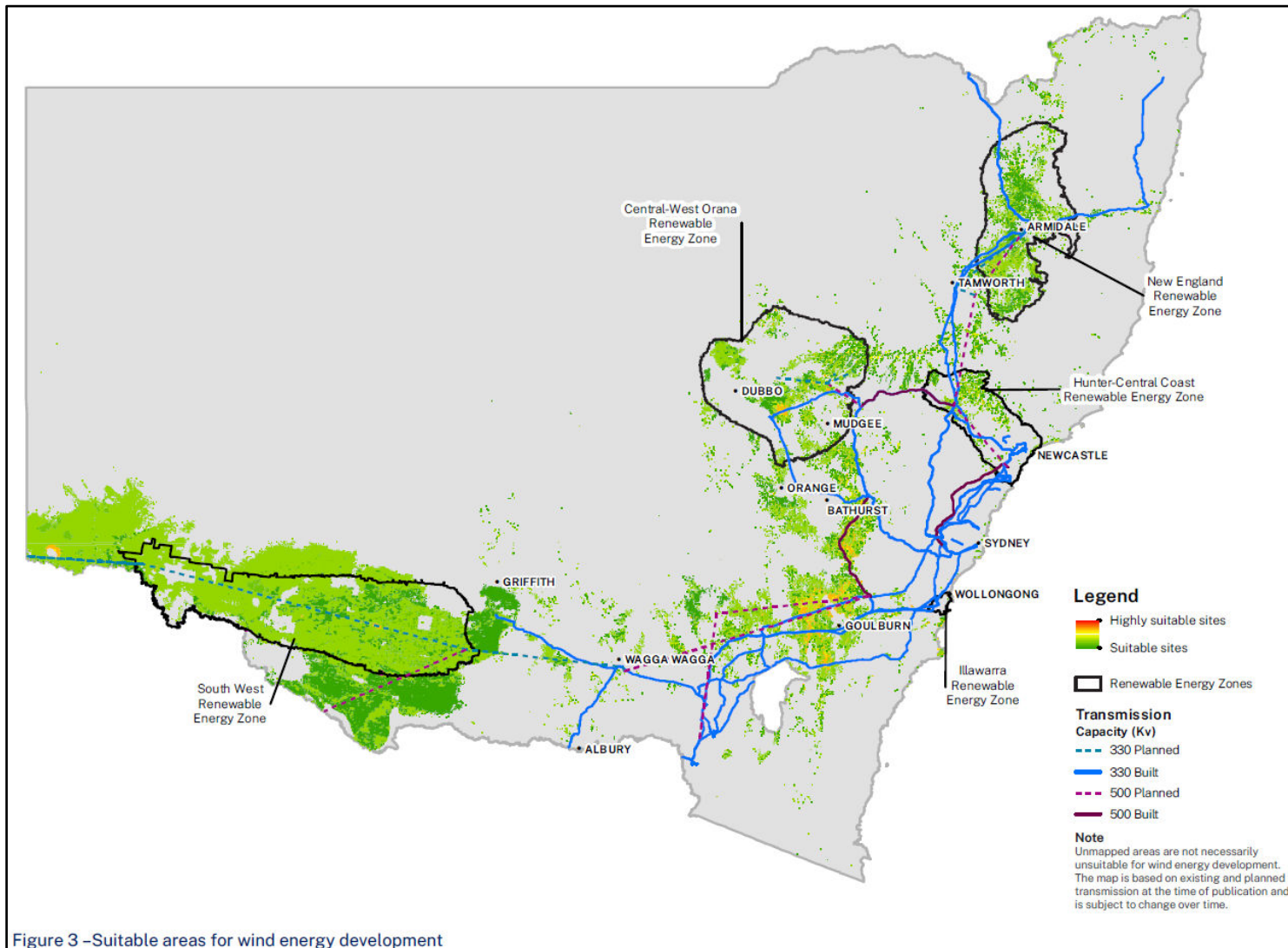


Figure 3 –Suitable areas for wind energy development

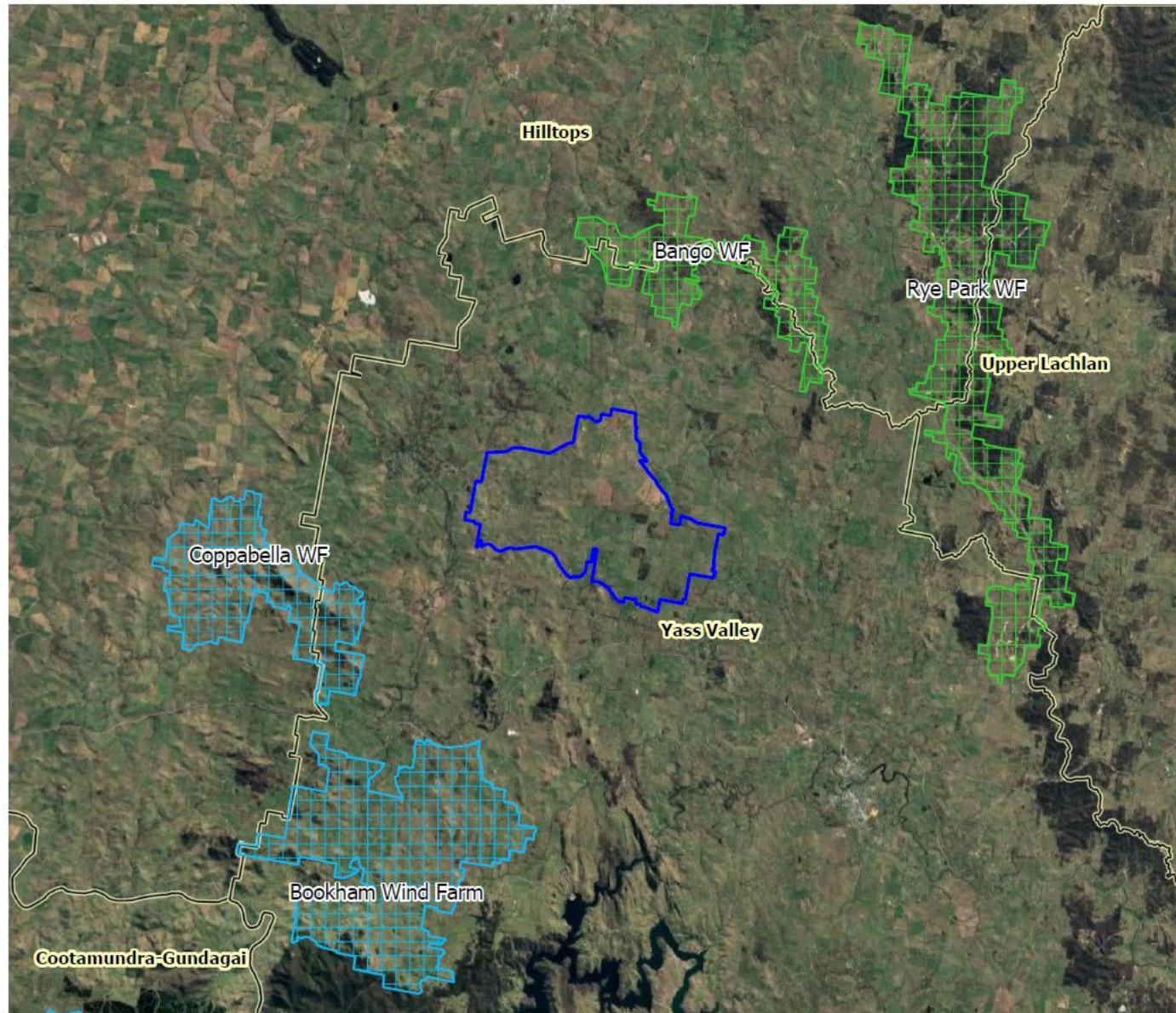
Australia requires new generation projects now to meet growing energy demand and replace retiring generation

Some areas in NSW have a greater potential to host wind projects than others, factors include:

- Wind resource
- Proximity to the grid
- Environmental constraints
- Feasible port-to-site transport routes
- Proximity to electrical load centres (such as cities)

Not all of these regions are within the NSW Government's Renewable Energy Zone

Regional context



Regional Context

-  Project Site Boundary
-  Wind Farm Project in Planning
-  Operational Wind Farm

Site selection considerations

Why Bowning / Binalong?



Strong and reliable wind resource



Not proximate to any registered aerodromes reducing aviation safety risks



Close to major highways with ability to avoid using local roads for main haulage route during construction



Close to Yass, supporting local workforce accommodation and supply chain



Existing and planned transmission infrastructure nearby, making grid connection simpler and more efficient



Ability to be set back from townships and neighbouring dwellings with clear separation, above minimums prescribed in NSW guidelines

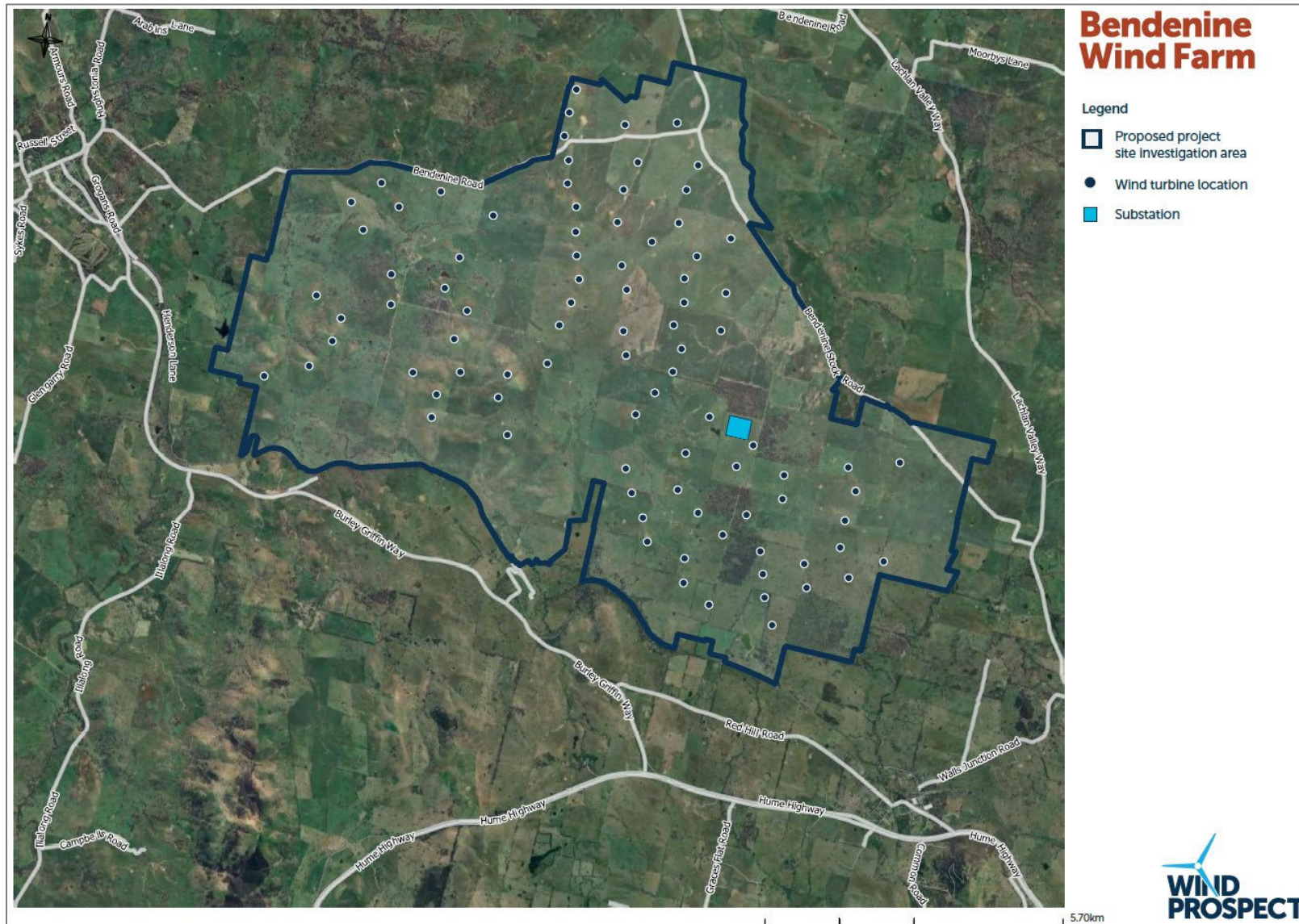


Located on mostly cleared agricultural land with minimal interaction with native vegetation, waterways and culturally significant sites



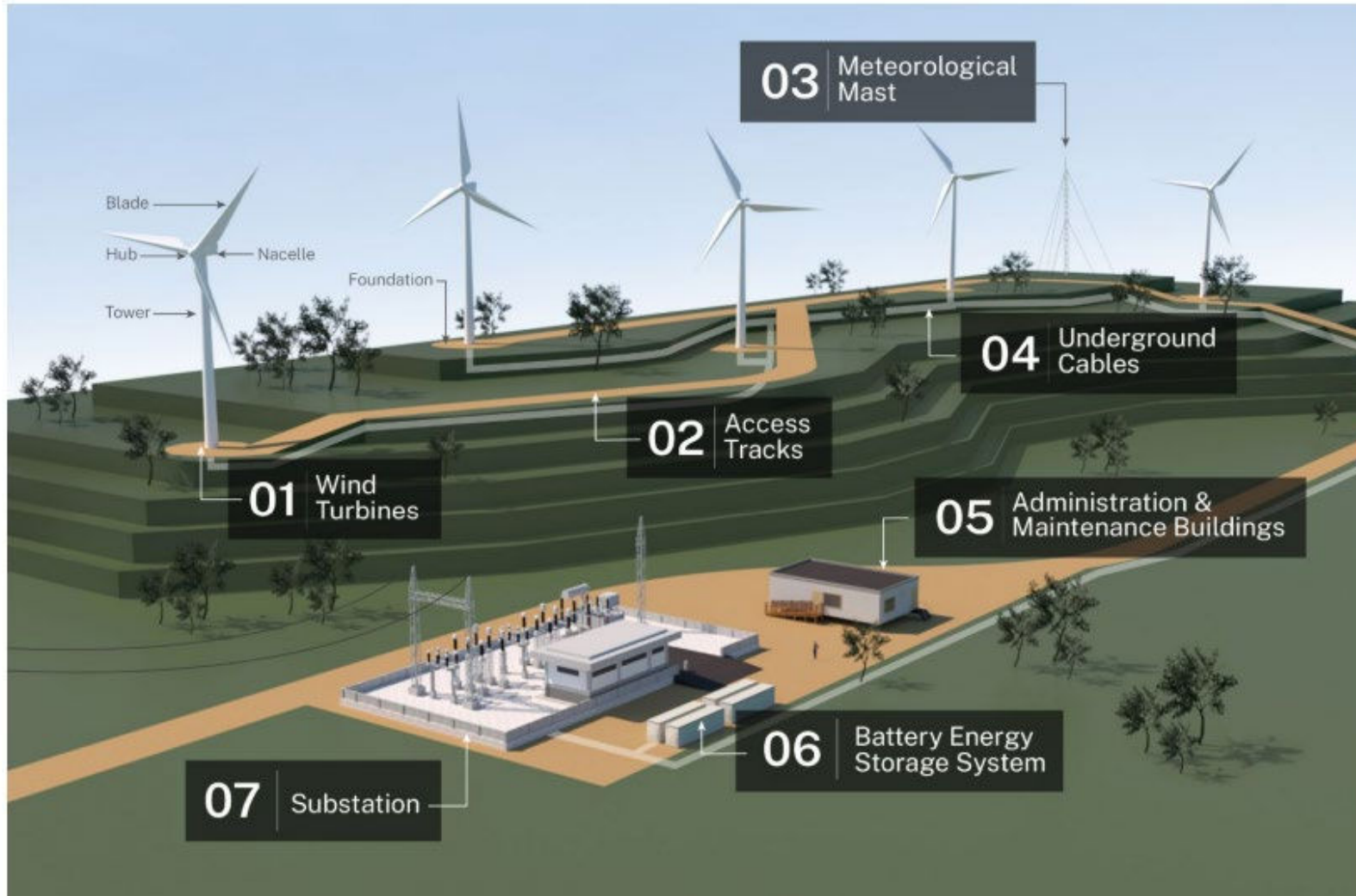
Minimal impacts to the ongoing agricultural productivity of the land

Indicative turbine layout



- Current initial concept layout
- Subject to change, based on community feedback and outcomes of studies
- Investigating feasibility of up to 90 turbines

Example of the site components for a typical wind project



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Wind Energy Guideline



Community and Stakeholder Engagement



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Engagement timeline



Social Wellbeing Program

Based on feedback from the community, including the BDPA, we've heard the scale and Project development timelines has created a sense of uncertainty and stress for some members of the community.

Community wellbeing matters to us, and we want to respond meaningfully to the feedback we've heard.

- Developed in partnership with Rural Health Connect, an independent organisation connecting rural and regional communities with mental health professionals
- Service is fully confidential
- The service is available to people living or working in the area surrounding the proposed Project, including the communities of Bowning, Kangiara and Binalong.

Supporting community wellbeing



Free, confidential support from qualified mental health professionals.



Easy access via phone or video with no travel and no referral needed.



Inclusive and non-judgmental, open to all, regardless of project views.



Tailored for rural communities, supporting people through stress, change and uncertainty.

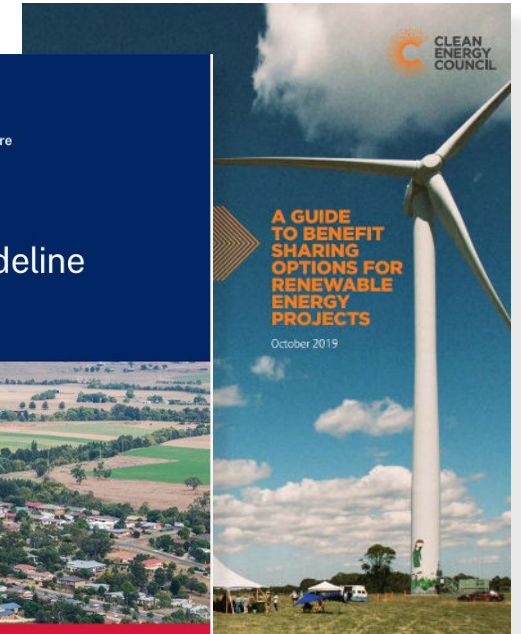
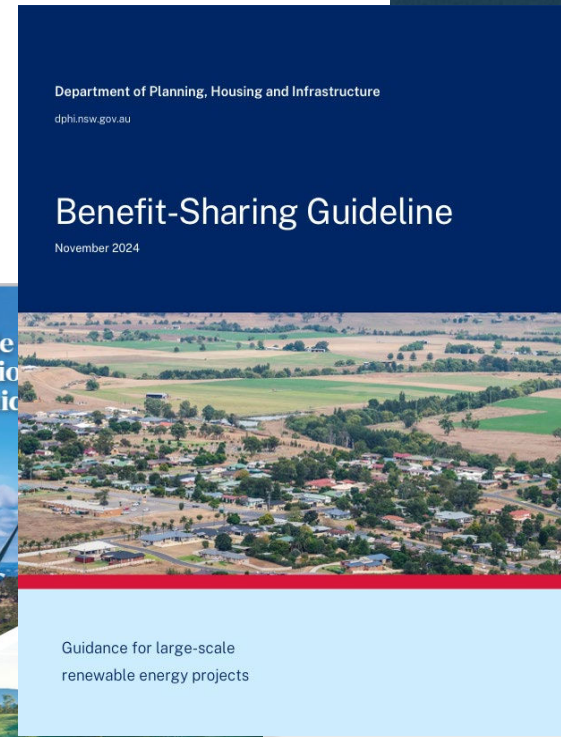
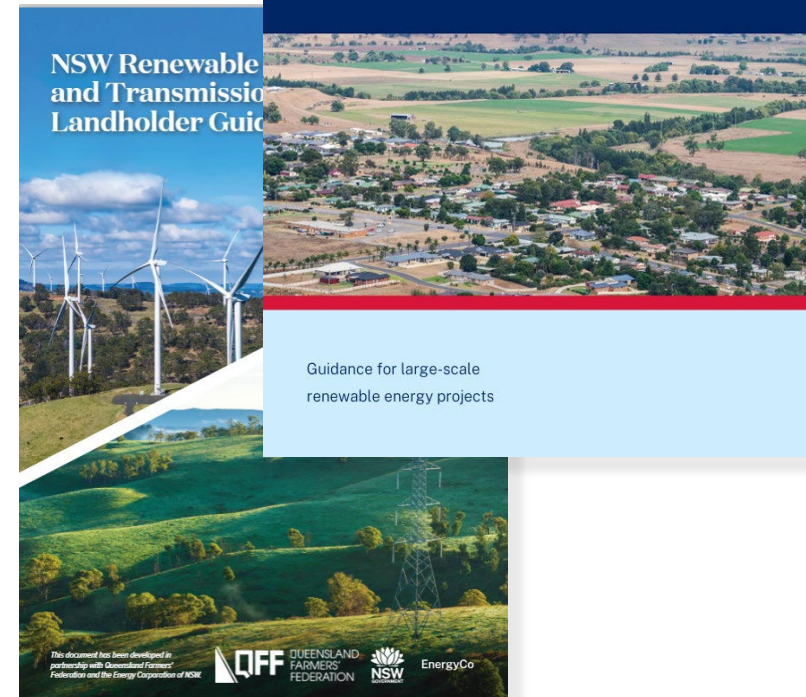


Trial period, developed in direct response to community feedback.

Details about how to access the program will be shared with the community via the Project website and other communication shortly.

Benefit Sharing

- The NSW Benefit Sharing Guideline will play a role in shaping our neighbour and community benefit sharing framework for the Bendenine Wind Farm along with feedback from the community.





Q&A



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How you can reach us



1800 497 133



info@bendeninewindfarm.com.au



Thank you



Supplementary slides to facilitate discussion

Key design constraints – managing visual impacts

- Strict guidelines set by NSW Government
- Sensitive receivers include people's houses
- The setback distances is dependant on wind turbine height
- The design shared today is within relevant guidelines, and we've applied a conservative approach by increasing the minimum setbacks beyond what is required
- For planning, we would need to accommodate for large dimensions for conservative assumptions in the technical assessments i.e 260 m tip height

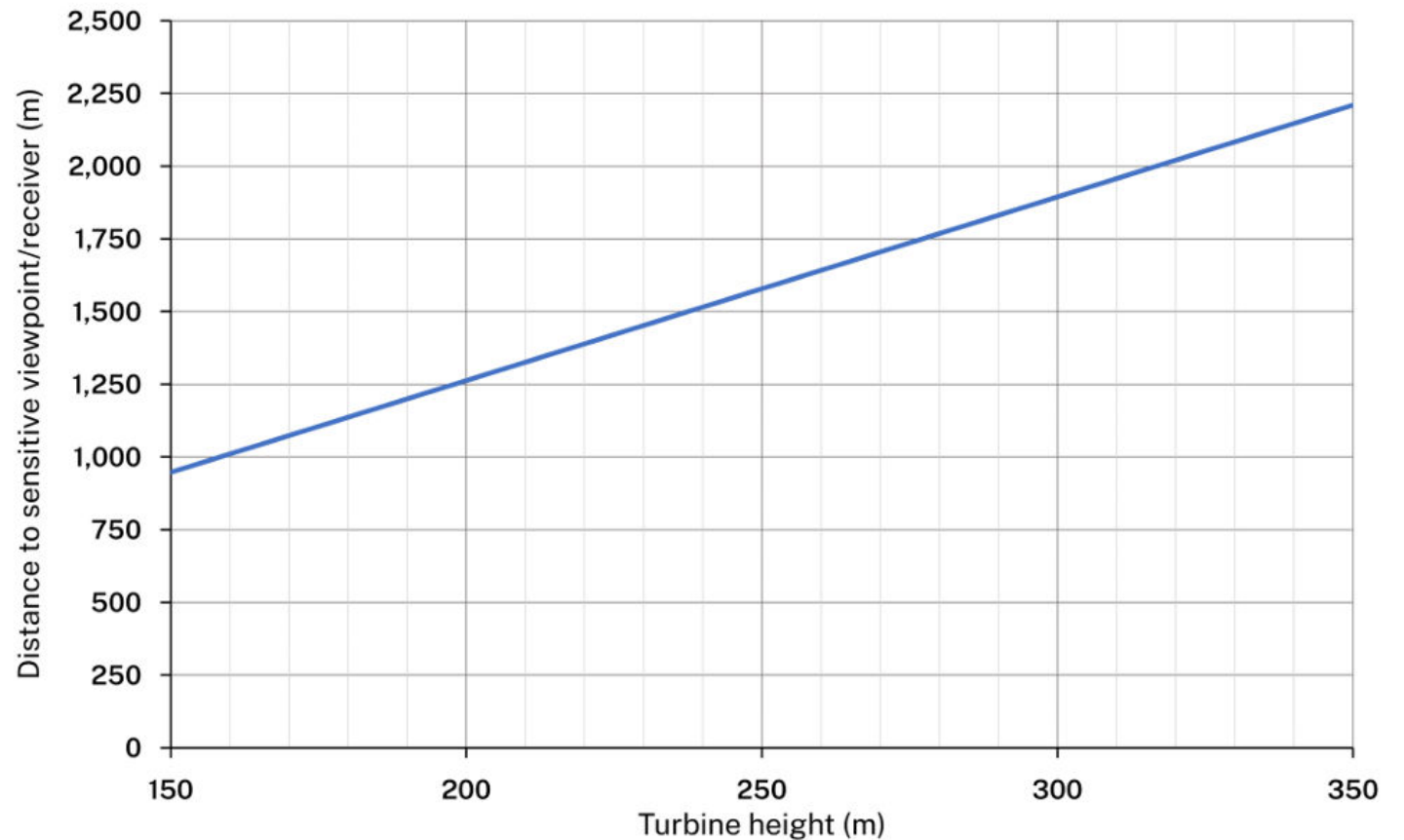
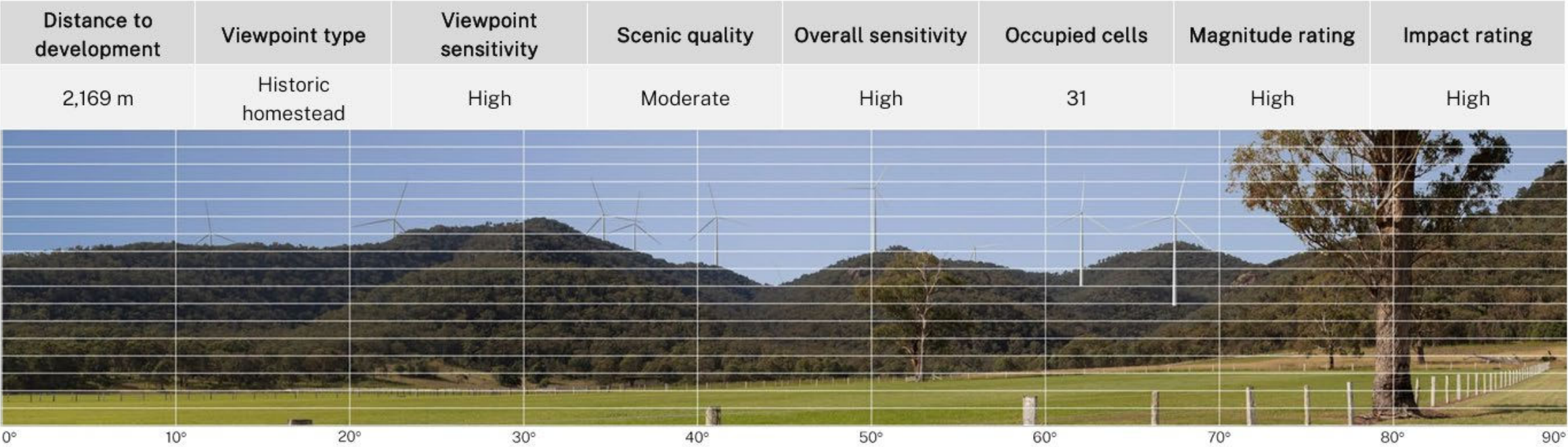


Figure 2. Setback from sensitive receivers

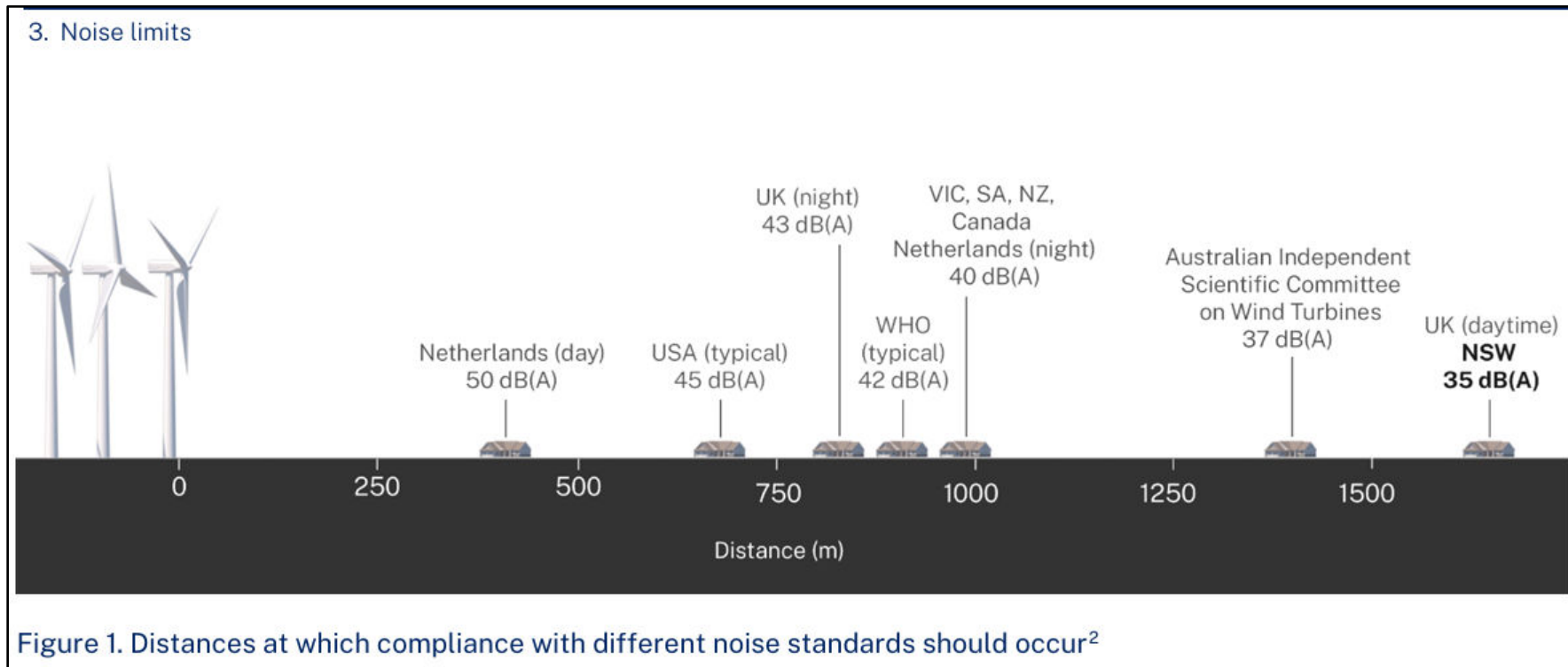
Detailed visual impact assessment

- Example photomontage shown below to provide an indication of one tool for assessing potential visual impacts
- Application of a 3.5 km setback from residentially zoned areas in Binalong and Bowning



Key design constraints – managing noise impacts

- NSW has conservative noise criteria
- Noise modelling is complex and requires extensive work by specialist consultants to assess, inform the project design and demonstrate compliance



Other constraints that will be considered in detail during EIS



Civil (e.g. slope)



Biodiversity including native vegetation, birds and bats



Traffic and transport



Surface water and groundwater



Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage



Electromagnetic interference



Shadow flicker



Aviation