



Submission to Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales

White Rock Wind Farm Mod 6 (10_0160 MOD 6)

Friday 18th October 2019

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The Australian Wind Alliance supports this modification to the project approval for White Rock Wind Farm.

About AWA

The Australian Wind Alliance (AWA) is a community based organisation. We have around 500 financial members, who include landholders, farmers, small businesses, and members of the community and many neighbours to existing wind farms. The Wind Alliance encourages best practice community engagement and supports wind farms for the contribution they make to reducing Australia's carbon emissions and the benefits they bring to regional Australia.

Comments

We note that this application is for the modification of an existing approval, for which the first section is already complete and operating. Therefore the modifications requested are of an incremental nature only, beyond the conditions already approved.

While the modification received sufficient objections to proceed to IPC consideration, it is notable that not a single member of the public applied to speak to the IPC hearing on the modification held in Glen Innes last week. This indicates that after 18 months of operation of Stage 1 of the White Rock Wind Farm (WRWF), the construction of Stage 2 of the project is well accepted by the surrounding community.

The operation so far of Stage 1 of the WRWF as well as the neighbouring Sapphire Wind Farm has demonstrated that the wind resource on the ranges between Glen Innes and Inverell is extremely strong and reliable. Energy generation from both projects has significantly boosted national wind farm output, both in terms of total generation but just as importantly, these wind farms generate in a complementary fashion to the rest of the national wind fleet. Wind energy is a variable energy source that sees different regions generating at different times as weather patterns move through the country. The New England region is filling an important slot in the national output but also within New South Wales where its generation often occurs at times that complement the state's other major wind region in the South East NSW. For this reason, the additional capacity from WRWF Stage 2 will be valuable to provide replacement generation as NSW's coal fleet is replaced in coming years.

As the positive response to Stage 1 has shown, the proponent's consultation has been effective in achieving broad support for the project in the region and benefits are flowing to the local community. An estimated 200 people will be engaged during the construction period for Stage 2 with significant flow on benefits to the local towns of Glen Innes and Inverell. The increase of \$120,000 per annum to the community fund is welcome. The Fund is already in operation and this additional income will be able to fund more community programs in the local region.

With the drought biting hard in the New England, the dependable income for local farmers hosting wind turbines will be critical in allowing the local farming economy to weather this difficult time.