

BIALA WIND FARM

Newsletter

May 2019

We're keen to keep you informed on what's happening with Biala Wind Farm. We issue newsletters monthly, or more frequently if there is important news to share. To receive **future newsletters**, sign up at bialawindfarm.com/subscription.

Range Road Upgrade

Range Road upgrade work is underway. So far work has been concentrating on the section of road closest to Grabben Gullen, with 20% completed. Removal of the two culverts across Humes Creek has commenced and it is expected this work will take two weeks to complete. Bitumen sealing of the first two kilometres of road will commence in late June.

The upgrade to Range Road is required under the Biala Wind Farm Development Approval Conditions of Consent and will provide a new and improved road surface, between Grabben Gullen and the Kialla Road junction, for the community for many years to come. The work is expected to take another two months. The Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC) approved the designs and management plans for the road upgrade and has been inspecting the works.

Drivers may encounter delays of several minutes at the traffic lights installed at each end of the works. Drivers are required to reduce speed in the sections between the lights. The traffic lights have an orange flashing countdown timer which flashes at the same time as the red light. Drivers should only proceed when the light turns green.

If you would like more information or you have any feedback, please call 1800 370 045 or email info@bialawindfarm.com.

Text Message Service

Biala Wind Farm has implemented a text messaging service to communicate with nearby neighbours about any work we are doing on public roads and to give advance notice of large deliveries on their way to the site. If you live nearby and are interested in receiving construction updates please email us on info@bialawindfarm.com or call 1800 370 045 to leave a message and we will call you back to subscribe you for this service. You can opt out of receiving future SMS communication by replying UNSUBSCRIBE at any time.

Screening Available for Neighbours

Biala Wind Farm has announced a program to provide landscape and vegetation screening measures for residents within four kilometres of the wind turbines. Letters were recently posted to all eligible residents notifying them of the program. The screening measures are aimed at reducing the visual impact of the wind turbines and are a requirement of the wind farm's Development Approval.

For more information, or if you think you are within the four kilometre area and have not received a letter, please call 1800 370 045 or email info@bialawindfarm.com.

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Our Neighbour Program

Last month, Biala Wind Farm announced a benefit sharing program with neighbours located in close proximity to the project. The Neighbour Program incorporates recommendations made by the Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner regarding community enhancement and sharing the financial benefit of a wind farm beyond those whose land the turbines are constructed on.

The voluntary Neighbour Program allows eligible landholders to share in the financial benefits through an annual payment, for the life of the project. To be eligible, neighbours must be located within 3km of a Biala Wind Farm turbine. As part of their participation in the program, neighbours are requested to acknowledge that during construction of the project, there will be some minor impacts. Although all neighbours within 3km are eligible for the voluntary program, neighbours can elect not to be part of it. Landholders who will have turbines constructed on their property are not eligible. The Neighbour Program is split into three payment bands depending on the distance between the neighbour's residence (or landholding if there is no residence) and the nearest wind turbine. Annual payments range from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

All eligible landholders have been contacted and we are in the process of meeting with those who are interested. For more information about our Neighbour Program, please visit bialawindfarm.com

Grabben Gullen Hall Initiative

Last month we reported we had agreed to fund a new reverse cycle air-conditioning unit at the Grabben Gullen Community Hall. The community worked very quickly to put this funding into action. The new unit was installed just in time to keep people warm on Federal election day, when the hall was used as a polling station. Thanks to the Grabben Gullen Community Progress Association for their quick work in arranging the installation.

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

A CCC meeting was held in Gunning on Tuesday 28th of May 2019. Three community members were present. Key points discussed included the Neighbour Program, haulage routes, visual mitigation and the construction phase. Once approved by the independent chair, the minutes of the meeting will be posted on our website. The next CCC meeting will be held on the 20th of August 2019 from 5pm. If you have any questions about the project, members of the CCC can raise them on your behalf at these meetings. Member contact details are available on our website. If you are interested in observing, please register your interest with the independent chairperson, Nic Carmody on 0429 354 582 or email nic.carmody@bigpond.com.

About the Project

Biala Wind Farm is located approximately 6km south of Grabben Gullen on Grabben Gullen Road. It is owned by BJCE Australia, who also own Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm. Biala Wind Farm is proposed to have 31 turbines and was awarded a Development Approval in April 2017 by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission. It will connect to the electricity grid via underground electricity cables from the Gullen Range Wind Farm substation at Bannister.

Proposed Project Timeline

Here is our current schedule
We'll update it in each of
our monthly newsletters

Approvals, design work, surveys	Now until June 2019
Roadwork to Range Road	Now until August 2019
Onsite civil and electrical work	July 2019 to April 2020
Delivery and erection of wind turbines	February 2020 to September 2020
Commissioning of wind turbines	March 2020 to September 2020