

COVID-19 Update



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In response to the international COVID-19 pandemic, BJCE Australia has implemented a new set of protocols to protect the communities in which we operate, our employees, contractors and suppliers. Health and wellbeing is a top priority for BJCE Australia.

The measures described in this update are constantly being reviewed and updated.

In recent weeks, we proactively implemented the following changes to our community engagement activities:

- **Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm public tours** have been suspended. If you would like to be notified when these tours will recommence, please register at gullenrangewindfarm.com
- Our **school visits and tours** to site have been postponed until further notice. As an Industry Partner with the STEM Industry School Partnership (SISP) Program, we are working closely with the SISP coordinators to continue supporting the Program in 2020.
- **Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund grant workshop** has been postponed. We are planning to deliver a rescheduled workshop via an online webinar. If you are interested and would like to know more please call 1800 509 711.
- **Gullen Range Wind Farm's Clean Energy Program's household energy efficiency audit visits** are now on hold. If you have any questions, please call 1800 509 711.
- **Biala Wind Farm's monthly community BBQs** have been cancelled for the time being.
- **All Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings** will be held via teleconference or postponed.

Frequently Asked Questions – Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm

Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm is an operational project. In 2019, Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm generated enough clean energy to power an average of 80,700 homes.

Is Gullen Range Wind Farm, Gullen Solar Farm or Biala Wind Farm still open?

Our project and construction sites continue to operate, but they are only open to our essential staff and contractors. The NSW Government has recently issued various pieces of advice requiring the closure of certain types of businesses. Although construction sites are specifically excluded from this requirement, we will continue to monitor and follow government advice as it is updated.

What staff are at Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm?

A team of fifteen locally based staff work at the operations and maintenance facility at Bannister, servicing and maintaining the Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm. The team are implementing revised work methods in accordance with Federal and State government advice. No non-essential staff, or non-essential contractors, are allowed to attend site at present.

Frequently Asked Questions – Biala Wind Farm

Biala Wind Farm is currently under construction and due for completion by the end of 2020. When completed it will consist of 31 wind turbines and provide electricity for 46,000 homes on an average day of wind.

Where are your wind turbines coming from?

The Goldwind turbine blades and other turbine components are manufactured in China, and exported via sea to Australia. NSW Ports and Australian Amalgamated Terminals (AAT) have stringent protocols in place to ensure any products from offshore are quarantined before entering Australian ports. Goldwind Australia's transport subcontractor, based in Port Kembla, picks the wind turbine components up from the port and delivers them to the wind farm site.

Are there any workers at Biala Wind Farm who have recently arrived from overseas?

No one working on the construction of Biala Wind Farm has recently arrived from overseas.

There are a lot of workers at Biala Wind Farm. Where do they come from? Do they fly in and fly out?

BJCE Australia has one person based at Biala Wind Farm who lives locally. We appointed three primary contractors to construct Biala Wind Farm:

- 1. CATCON** – based in Adelaide, South Australia. CATCON has been constructing the civil works at the wind farm, including the roads and concrete turbine foundations. They have been flying staff in and out from South Australia and supplementing them with local subcontractors. The majority of work is almost complete and they are gradually reducing the number of people on site. They will maintain a small crew to manage site health and safety until the project is complete. Depending on quarantine regulations in South Australia, that small crew will either remain in NSW until the work is complete, or return to South Australia and self-isolate in accordance with regulations.
- 2. Consolidated Power Projects (CPP) Australia** is an Australia wide company with offices in all major capital cities. CPP is an electrical infrastructure contractor that has been extending the Gullen Range Wind Farm substation at Bannister. They have also installed the electrical connection cable from Biala Wind Farm to the substation. This work is now complete. CPP has used a combination of employees and subcontractors from interstate and locally in NSW, including fly in, fly out workers. The majority of CPP workers currently on site are from South Australia. CPP is demobilising two thirds of their staff over the next few weeks, leaving only a small crew connecting the electricity cables to the wind turbines as they are gradually erected. They will also perform revegetation works at the substation and along underground cable routes. Depending on quarantine regulations, that small crew will either remain in NSW until the work is complete, or return to their state of origin and self-isolate in accordance with regulations.
- 3. Goldwind Australia** – based in Sydney, New South Wales. Goldwind Australia is currently building five wind farm projects in Australia (VIC, TAS, WA, NSW). Goldwind Australia is responsible for delivering the Goldwind wind turbines to the project site, as well as installation and commissioning of the turbines. Goldwind Australia is scheduled to be on-site performing this work for most of this year.

Frequently Asked Questions – Biala Wind Farm

Where do workers come from? (cont.)

Currently Goldwind Australia has seven staff based on site. Goldwind Australia has engaged three subcontractor companies to assist in the work. They are not fly in, fly out workers as they will generally remain onsite until the works are complete.

1. **Ares Transport Group** – based in Port Kembla, New South Wales. Ares currently has one staff member based on site. Ares transports Goldwind wind turbine components from Port Kembla to the wind farm site six days a week. Interactions between the Ares delivery drivers and site staff are kept to a minimum, in accordance with government advice on social distancing.
2. **ARC** – based in Sydney, New South Wales. ARC is assisting with assembly of the wind turbines. They currently have seven staff onsite. These staff stay locally to Goulburn or Canberra.
3. **Borger Cranes** – based in Sydney, New South Wales. Borger's currently has approximately twenty staff based on site. Borger's staff stay locally in Goulburn whilst working on site and return to Sydney between work rotations.

Are more workers needed as the project progresses and where will they come from?

More workers will be required as the wind turbines are electrically assembled and commissioned. Goldwind Australia is currently building five wind farm projects in Australia (VIC, TAS, WA, NSW). All capabilities necessary to complete these works are already located in Australia. Goldwind Australia will be sourcing local staff from its existing Gullen Range Wind Farm workforce to undertake some of these works, as well as other existing Goldwind Australia staff as required. All staff are required to abide with the Federal and State Government regulations regarding travel within Australia. This includes adhering to self-isolation protocols if required.

Why are you still constructing the wind farm during the COVID-19 pandemic?

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation. We will be checking daily for government updates about the pandemic to ensure we are fully informed. BJCE Australia is following the recommendations and advice set forth by the Australian Government and health authorities.

It is important that those parts of the economy that can still operate during the pandemic, continue to do so. That approach means as many people are kept in employment as possible. We will continue constructing Biala Wind Farm while the government regulations allow us to do so.

Our staff are renting local accommodation and we are still spending money in the community. Our local projects deliver economic benefits to the local economy in the Crookwell/Goulburn region through employment and wages, shopping locally for supplies, fuel and groceries. Our external contractors regularly rent (short and long term) residential homes, motels and Airbnb's in Crookwell and Goulburn. Project related staff are currently renting approximately ten local houses and thirty hotel rooms. All of this assists the region weather the current economic downturn and reduction in tourism. Only last week we hired Café Zestt in Crookwell to prepare \$5,000 worth of takeaway lunches for our substation workers.

Frequently Asked Questions – Biala Wind Farm

What measures have you introduced to prevent the transmission?

We have introduced several measures to minimise the COVID-19 risk onsite and to prevent the transmission of the virus. Most importantly, we are reviewing these measures daily, both at a site level and a senior management level.

- We have minimised the number of people on site. A reduction in staff means there is more space between people working.
- We have separated the workers into smaller teams, who only interact with their own team members. This includes avoiding interaction between the different teams while working on site, during lunch and break times, driving to/from the site or if they are in shared accommodation.
- Meetings between the smaller teams are only being held outside under shelter with a minimum two metre separation between staff.
- We encourage all workers to eat their lunch outside although we acknowledge this will become more difficult in the cooler months.
- Our contractors screen every worker before they can commence work on our site. Screening involves workers filling out a questionnaire to evaluate whether there is a reason they shouldn't be allowed on site. The questionnaire is constantly evolving as the COVID-19 situation progresses. We are monitoring the new border restrictions closely to ensure any self-isolation protocols required are strictly adhered to.
- Our contractors are checking the temperature of all workers every morning before they start.
- We've increased cleaning services on site and in work areas.
- Hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes are provided for all staff and at site offices.

Contact Us

We are still available to answer your project queries

BJCE Australia
1800 229 116
info@bjceaustalia.com
bjceaustalia.com

Gullen Range Wind Farm
1800 509 711
info@gullenrangewindfarm.com
gullenrangewindfarm.com

Biala Wind Farm
1800 370 045
info@bialawindfarm.com
bialawindfarm.com

Gullen Solar Farm
1800 725 270
info@gullensolarfarm.com
gullensolarfarm.com