

# BIALA WIND FARM

## Newsletter

February/March 2021

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 via email, please sign up at [bialawindfarm.com/subscription](http://bialawindfarm.com/subscription).

### Project Update

We now have 30 of 31 turbines fully commissioned. Currently we have ten turbines operating at a time, while the Australian Electricity Market Operator and Transgrid ensure we are producing good quality power.

After all of the turbines are operating together, we will undertake testing to ensure the wind farm is compliant with the noise limits stated in the wind farm's development consent.

Now that all of the turbines are erected, our civil contractor will be returning to do a final grade on the roads.

### Aviation Lights

We have received a number of concerns about the wind farm's aviation lights. We have approached the National Wind Farm Commissioner to assist us with talking to relevant authorities, such as the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, to check whether there is any scope to turn the lights off. We'll keep you updated about our progress. We also recently rectified a programming error, where the lights were not turning off at midnight, as they are supposed to do.

### Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Update

The next CCC meeting will be held at Grabben Gullen Hall on Thursday 13th May 2021 from 5.30pm. If you have any questions about the project, members of the CCC can still raise them on your behalf. Minutes of all previous meetings are available on our website to read or download. For more information about CCC meetings please contact the Independent Chair, Nic Carmody on 0429 354 582 or email [nic.carmody@bigpond.com](mailto:nic.carmody@bigpond.com).

### Biala Wind Farm Landscaping Program

We have distributed digital and printed letters to residents within four kilometres of a wind turbine about our Landscaping Program. The letter sets out how the program works and the eligibility criteria. The program is designed to mitigate the visual impacts of the wind farm, in line with the requirements of our development consent. If you live within four kilometres and didn't receive a letter, please contact us.

### Update on the Biala Wind Farm Community Fund

Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC) has begun the process of setting up the Biala Wind Farm Community Fund, which will provide approximately \$92,300 per year towards community projects. Council has selected two community members to sit on the guiding committee, alongside council representatives and one representative from Biala Wind Farm. The next steps are for the committee to meet and agree on a charter. Depending on the outcome of the first meeting of the committee, Biala Wind Farm expects the fund will open for applications later this year. We'll keep you up to date in future newsletters and on our [website](http://bialawindfarm.com).

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## BJCE Australia – A Gold Sponsor of the 2021 Gunning Arts Festival

BJCE Australia's Biala and Gullen Range Wind Farms are delighted to be a Gold sponsor of the 2021 community-led Gunning Arts Festival. This year, the 'rejuvenation'-themed Festival will feature a strong line-up of both online and face-to-face events, including play and story readings, music performances, arts/craft workshops, competitions, an art exhibition and much more. Leading up to the main 2-day event in October, you'll also be treated to smaller events that will be held throughout the year. For further information visit <https://www.gunningartsfestival.com/>

## Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Fund Round is Open

Applications have opened for the 2021 Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Fund Funding Round. The closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday, 16th April 2021. The Community Fund provides grants to projects or initiatives that benefit the community within 10km of the wind farm. It forms part of the Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Enhancement Program. The Community Fund is administered by ULSC. The guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from the ULSC [website](#).

In the last Funding Round, five local groups benefited from Community Fund grants totalling more than \$65,000. Successful projects funded included banner flags and a marquee for the Crookwell Potato Festival, the refurbishment of Bannister District Hall Association's community hall and a rock wall entrance to Pat Cullen Reserve. This year, \$73,754 has been made available for the Community Fund. If you would like to find out more about the Community Fund, please visit <https://gullenrangewindfarm.com/community/community-fund/>.

## Text Message Service

If you live nearby and are interested in receiving project updates by text message to your phone, please email us on [info@bialawindfarm.com](mailto:info@bialawindfarm.com) or call 1800 370 045 to leave a message and we will call you back to subscribe you for this service.

## About the Project

Biala Wind Farm is located approx. 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 has 31 turbines and was awarded a Development Approval in April 2017 by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission. It connects to the electricity grid via underground electricity cables from the Gullen Range Wind Farm substation at Bannister. BJCE Australia commenced construction of the wind farm in August 2019 with full operation expected in mid 2021.

## Current Project Timeline

**We update this in each of our monthly newsletters**

Works to Range Road	Complete
Onsite civil and electrical work	Complete
Delivery of wind turbine components	Complete
Substation extension	Complete
Installation of underground electrical transmission line	Complete
Biala O&M building	Complete
Erection of wind turbines	Complete
Commissioning of wind turbines	March 2021
Completion of electricity grid testing and commencement of formal Operation	May 2021

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