BIALA WIND FARM GULLEN RANGE WIND FARM GULLEN SOLAR FARM

September 2025 Newsletter

We're keen to keep the community informed. Anyone can receive email newsletters by signing up at bialawindfarm.com/subscription or at gullenrangewindfarm.com/subscription.

Project update

The cooler months have seen a busy period of ongoing wind turbine maintenance happening at both Biala and Gullen Range Wind Farm. These checks form part of our routine maintenance to ensure turbines are operating optimally and any issues are addressed quickly. Weed spraying has been underway in preparation for the fire season and will continue as different species become prevalent as the seasons change.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to conduct more annual checks, such as a test and update of our Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) at Biala Wind Farm. This involves our site team undertaking a simulation to test our response controls should they be needed and is an important checkpoint to ensure that our plans are robust. A similar Plan is in place for Gullen Range Wind Farm, with the next test and update due in early 2026.

You may have noticed in recent months some periods of the turbines being still at the wind farms. In May, annual maintenance at Gullen Range Wind Farm saw the entire site's turbines still for a four-day period as important checks were completed by our team. In August, a Transgrid outage also saw turbines still for much of the day, during which time substation maintenance was occuring. These "outage" periods help to ensure that the turbines and the infrastructure that supports energy being sent to the grid are operating as needed, resulting in less faults and unplanned down time.

Finally, we will soon welcome representatives from some of the local Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigades for a site tour and review of our bushfire management plans. We conduct these visits and updates annually ahead of the bushfire season to ensure that local services are familiar with site access points and water supply, as well as to ensure that our plans remain current and suitable for local conditions.

Biala Wind Farm Community Fund applications now open!

Beyond clean energy generation, the Biala Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund supports local projects – from sport and recreation initiatives to education and conservation activities – helping build a stronger community.

The 2025 Community Enhancement Fund, administered by Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC), is now open for applications. With over $170,000 available for funding this year, applications are being encouraged for both one off and multi-year projects.

If you are from a local community group or not for profit organisation looking to enhance the lives of those living within 20km of Biala Wind Farm, please visit the ULSC website here for more information and to download an application form.

Applications close on **Friday, 10th of October 2025.**

Clean Energy Program Stage 2 Now Open

Eligible residents within 5km of the wind farm can apply for up to $8,370 in funding for clean energy upgrades such as solar panels, batteries, or solar hot water systems through Gullen Range Wind Farm's Clean Energy Program (CLEP). Stage 1 energy audits are available year-round and must be completed before Stage 2 applications can be submitted.

Previously received CLEP funding? We've recently opened applications to those that have already received a grant, which means you can make further efficiency upgrades to your eligible property.

Applications **for the current round** close 22nd September 2025, with applications reviewed between 1 October and 31 December. A final round for the year will open for applications on 23 September 2025. For more information on the CLEP and to download an application form, click here.

R U OK? Day – the importance of mental health

September marks an important date, with the annual R U OK? Day initiative taking place. While R U Ok? Day officially takes place on Thursday, 11th September, asking a friend, colleague or loved one if they're OK can happen any time. Regular, meaningful conversations with those closest to us and those in our community can help to confront the stigma of mental health, and encourage ongoing discussions.

We acknowledge the Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which Gullen Range Wind Farm, Gullen Solar Farm and Biala Wind Farm operate and their continuing connection to Country. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

BJCE

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Gullen Range Wind Farm – successful Community Fund recipients announced

The successful applicants to the 2025 Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Fund have been announced, with more than $110,000 in funding provided to ten local initiatives for everything from BBQ trailers to tourism initiatives.

Receiving funding in this year's round were:

- Grabben Gullen Hall & Recreation Reserve Land Management for Grabben Gullen Hall Façade Upgrade ($41,701.31)
- Crookwell Heritage Railway for Upper Lachlan Arts, Culture and Heritage Trail ($7,100)
- St Mary's Primary School P&F Working Committee for a BBQ Trailer ($12,000) and Basketball/Netball/Tennis Court Fence ($15,000)
- Quick Shear Incorporated for Shearer's Showdown ($10,000)
- Breadalbane Public School P&C for a Permanent BBQ Area for Community and Children of BPS and the Wider Community ($8,000)
- Rotary Club of Crookwell for their Serving our Community Initiative, providing funding to update club assets to support fundraising activities ($5,224.62)
- Bannister District Hall Association Inc for A Hall for All – Roof Restoration ($11,636.65)
- Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre Inc for Web Page development ($2,200)
- Australian Agricultural Centre for International Women's Day: Women in Agriculture ($6,000)

Congratulations to all of these worthy projects. We look forward to continuing our longstanding support of wonderful local initiatives such as these in the years to come.

Experience Renewable Energy First-Hand

On 6th August 2025, visitors took part in a guided tour offering a rare, close-up look at the wind farm's turbines and the solar farm's panels. Guests explored the inner workings of our infrastructure and learned how we combine wind and solar to deliver clean power day and night.

Missed out? Our next public tour will be held on Wednesday, 8th October 2025. Spaces are extremely limited, email info@gullenrangewindfarm.com to secure your spot or add your name to the waitlist for a future tour.

Encouraging local student interest in STEM

In early August, Biala Wind Farm was once again a proud supporter of the Southern Tablelands Science and Engineering Challenge. This annual event, organised by the University of Newcastle in partnership with Goulburn Rotary Club, sees high school students from across the region come together to participate in several STEM challenges designed to flex their brain muscles and encourage an interest in science and engineering.

Yass High School emerged victorious at the end of the day, following the culmination of the event – a model bridge building challenge demonstrating creativity to design a structure that can hold the largest weight.

We are excited to continue supporting local students to consider a career in STEM fields, including renewable energy, and to demonstrate the diverse career paths open to them in the local area.

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Cheering on the Crookwell Green Devils

Biala Wind Farm has been a proud supporter of the Crookwell Green Devils for several years. On 6th of July, wind and solar farm Site Manager, Andrew, attended the annual Sponsors Day event at Crookwell Oval, enjoying the hospitality while cheering on the men's and women's teams.

After a cracking season, both the men's Green Devil's and women's She Devils are moving into the Minor Semi Finals Games. Best of luck to both teams for finals season - let's paint the town Green!

Did you Know?

One of the most important parts of our work is protecting local wildlife. The Powerful Owl – Australia's largest owl and a threatened species – calls the region home. These incredible birds rely on mature forests, hollows in large trees, and a healthy population of gliders and possums to survive. They are known for being shy, nesting quietly in bushland while their young grow strong enough to take flight.

To support their protection, several turbines at Gullen Range were powered down each night during summer when juveniles are learning to fly, as required by our project conditions. This careful balance allows the wind farm to produce clean energy while ensuring the owls have the space and safety they need. Our team continues to monitor the owls and work closely with regulators to make sure their habitat and breeding cycles are respected.

Community Consultative Committees

Both Biala and Gullen Range Wind Farms have a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) which will continue to meet regularly throughout the projects' operation.

The CCCs comprise local residents, council representatives, project staff and an independent chair appointed by the NSW Government. The meetings provide a forum both for project information to be shared and community feedback to be given.

There are currently vacancies for community representatives to take part in the Gullen Range CCC. Anyone interested can contact us at info@gullenrangewindfarm.com or if you leave a message at 1800 509 711 we'll call you back for an informal conversation about how the committee operates.

Further information, including details of the community representatives and recent meeting minutes, are available on the project websites. The next CCC meeting date for Gullen Range Wind Farm is **15th of October 2025** at Bannister Hall, while Biala Wind Farm's next CCC meeting will be held on **18th of November 2025** at Grabben Gullen Hall.

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