



Speaking notes to the IPCN Public Hearing into the Coppabella WF - Charlie Prell

12/11/2018

Contact:
Charlie Prell
NSW Organiser

The Australian Wind Alliance (AWA) is a community based organisation that has over 700 financial members and more than 11,000 supporters on social media. 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.

I'm Charlie Prell. I'm a farmer from Crookwell, about an hours drive east of here.

As I speak to you today, the construction of the Crookwell 2 wind farm is being completed. My farm and two adjoining farms host these turbines. As I speak to you today, I know that the 2 people who work for me, and their families, can rest assured that their jobs are secure and that no matter how bad this current drought gets they will have work on my farm. I know that I can reduce my stocking numbers as needed to allow my land to retain a good level of pasture cover and not be degraded as the drought worsens. I know that I can retain the ecological and environmental health of my farm, no matter how bad the drought gets. This is all due to the passive income stream I get from hosting wind turbines. I want to see as many farmers as possible to be in the same situation I am, either through hosting turbines, or receiving income through a neighbour agreement. That's why I support well designed wind farms and this wind farm in particular.

In addition to these environmental benefits this wind farm has brought massive economic benefits to the region around the wind farm. The company that did the civil works reported that they had spent more than \$12.3 million in the Goulburn/Crookwell/Marulan district alone (report attached). This does not include the personal spending of local employees in the motels, cafes, clubs and pubs in the district, or the expenditure of the turbine company who supplied and erected the turbines. This was a very welcome economic injection into the local economy when the impact of the drought was limiting local farmers' ability to spend money in rural supply businesses.

I want to expand on a number of points that the Wind Alliance made in our submission to this development:

- The Coppabella Wind Farm will be injecting between \$25 and \$30 million into the local economy. This will be the largest investment in this region for many decades, possibly in its history.
- The 75 turbines recommended for approval will mean that about \$1.5million will be paid to local farmers **each year** for the next 25-30 years. This includes substantial payments made to neighbours on the same ongoing basis. The vast majority of this money will then be spent in the local community. Farmers don't squirrel their money away. They spend it, and they spend it in local businesses.
- The community enhancement fund contribution of approximately \$290,000 **per year** will contribute something like \$7.5 million to the region over the expected 25 year life of the wind farm.
- Goldwind has committed to a Local Business Participation Program. This will give local businesses the opportunity to participate in the project and will encourage the generation of new skills and expertise in this region.
- Goldwind has committed to an open, transparent, and fair neighbour agreement with any residents who live within 5 kilometres of any turbine. The Wind Alliance has been championing this type of "benefit sharing" development model for many years.
- There is no increase in the height of the towers of this wind farm. The modification is to allow the use of the most up-to-date blade technology available. This should be supported.
- 33kV cabling within the wind farm will be underground. This minimises or negates the risk of bushfires from the wind farm. In addition to this risk minimisation, the quality of the roads that will be built by Goldwind will greatly enhance the ability of local bushfire brigades to access this steep country in the event of a bushfire. The bushfire near the Taralga wind farm early this year proved that aerial capability to fight fires was not compromised by the presence of the turbines of the Taralga wind farm.

In summary:

- The Coppabella wind farm will increase the economic, environmental and ecological resilience of the farmers in and around the turbines;
- The minimal disturbance to farming operations from the turbines, even during the construction period, will be manageable and will produce long term benefits to these farmers and the community where they live;
- The compromises that Goldwind have made in this modification are a true reflection of their commitment to meaningfully engage with the local community;

The modification should be approved in full so that this project can progress to construction.



18 June 2018

Ref: CR2-BOP-LT-G-039

ATTENTION: Mr David Santo Tomas

Engineering Manager

Crookwell Developments Pty Ltd



Dear David,

RE: Crookwell 2 Wind Farm – Local Industry and ACT Capital Region Involvement

The BMD CPP Consortium have had a focus on local and regional involvement on the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm construction. The consortium's work involved the construction of the Balance of Plant works for the Wind Farm namely the roads, hardstands, foundations and electrical trenching and connection for the wind Turbines.

The consortium's goal was to spend \$11.9m within the ACT Capitol Region through the construction constituting over 34% of the of the overall contract value.

The total amount spent from BMD during the construction under the contract for the corresponding regions:

Crookwell/Goulburn/Marulan: \$12,336,742.44

Canberra & ACT: \$2,477,298.95

TOTAL for Australian Capital Region (ACR - Southern Highlands to ACT): \$14,814,041.39

This equates to over 38% of the BoP Contract value spent in the Australian Capital Region.

Direct Subcontractors

The BMD CPP Consortium employed many local and regional contractors for the delivery of the project. Major suppliers were:

COMPANY / CONTRACTOR	TYPE	LOCATION
Divalls Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Earthmoving Equipment, Labour, Gravel Materials	Goulburn
Concrete 4 Goulburn Pty Ltd	Concrete Supply	Goulburn
Multiquip Aggregate Pty Ltd	Pavement Gravel	Goulburn
Coopers Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Earthmoving Equipment	Marulan
Tutt Bryant	Hire and Waste Removal	Goulburn
Clancy Constructions Pty Ltd	Fencing	Gunning
Complete Staff Solutions (Labour Hire Local Region Only)	Labour Hire	Goulburn, Crookwell
Nathan Contractors Pty Ltd	Formwork and Concrete	Canberra
Hollingsworth Cranes Pty Ltd	Crane Hire	Goulburn

Pearson Engineering Pty Ltd	Steel Fabrication	Goulburn
RA & SF McLean	Fencing	Crookwell
Delly Plumbing	Plumbing Works	Goulburn

In addition to these contractors, National suppliers were used out of the local regional branches such as Coates Hire (Mitchell, ACT Branch) which are not included in the above spend numbers. These national suppliers also provide direct local employment through these businesses, contributing a further \$450,000.00 of spend from the project all of which was supplied and serviced out of the ACT branches.

Direct Supervision Resources

BMD also created 2 new full-time positions and 1 new part-time position for the project which were recruited from the local area and Canberra to work on the project.

- Safety Officer – Goulburn, NSW
- Site Administration – Goulburn, NSW
- Project Engineer – Canberra, ACT

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP

In addition to the contributions to the local industry, the BMD CPP Consortium also contributed to the local Upper Lachlan community. These included:

- \$500 – Upper Lachlan Foundation Pig Races
- \$2,500 – Crookwell Cricket Club

BMD have well exceeded their target spend in the area constituting over 60% of the contract value spent in the region. Strong relationships were formed with these local suppliers and community groups. In addition to the financial involvement, these contractors have also had varying support in improvement of their safety systems and documentation to ensure compliance with BMD systems and bring in line with industry best practice.

Should you require any further information please contact Mr Sam Pearce (0428 878 258).

Yours Faithfully,



Sam Pearce
Project Director
BMD CPP Consortium