

My name is Jason Moore and I work for GE Renewable Energy who is providing the wind turbine technology for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm. I'd like to thank the IPC panel; for the opportunity to speak here today in support of the proposed modification.

I'm sure many of you have heard of GE, General Electric. It's company that is almost 130 years old founded on innovation and over its long history has designed and manufactured a wide range of products from light bulbs to refrigerators, pipes and drill bits for oil and gas mining, trains, aircraft engines and medical equipment such as ultrasound and mammogram devices to name just a few. In terms of electricity generation, GE manufactures gas and steam turbines which are used widely across Australia and also of course wind turbines which is why I'm here speaking to you today.

GE sees NSW as a key investment region for not just renewable energy but electricity generation as a whole. The current installed GE capacity in the state is significant with 1.2GW of gas turbines, 10.5GW of steam turbines, which is 100% of NSW's installed capacity, and 2GW of hydro power in the Snowy Mountains. In terms of wind energy, GE currently has 521 MW installed across 4 projects with another project (134MW) soon to commence construction. So, as you can see NSW is very important to GE and we are hoping to continue our investment in the state with the Flyers Creek Wind Farm as well as numerous other gas turbine, steam turbine and hydroelectricity projects.

GE has been manufacturing wind turbines for almost 20 years (since 2002) and since then it has installed over 40,000 turbines across the world. The turbines that we propose to install at Flyers Creek are from the 3MW platform family which is a mature technology product with over 3000 units installed globally, 350 of these in are Australia spread across 6 wind farms.

GE is committed to high standards of integrity and as such we will only partner with likeminded companies who hold this in the same regard. The preferred balance of plant contractor for Flyers Creek Wind Farm is CPP/NACAP who has extensive experience in Australia in renewable energy projects including wind, solar, battery storage and other infrastructure for oil and gas, mining and water. The developer of Flyers Creek, Infigen Energy, have a proven track record of successful renewable energy projects in Australia and GE recently partnered with them to build the Bodangora Wind Farm which is not too far from here, about 150km to the North.

This project provided a number of opportunities for the region during construction with over 25 local contractors employed providing services including plumbing, electrical, cleaning, earthmoving and plant hire. The Bodangora Wind Farm is now operational and provides stable long-term employment for 7 people with 5 of these being locals and you will hear from a couple of them today. In addition, local businesses benefit from the wind farm though providing services such as waste collection, painting, carpentry, cleaning, fire and safety inspections and purchasing consumables from local shops.

It is expected that the Flyers Creek Wind Farm will also provide excellent job opportunities for the local region and will create up to 140 jobs during construction with 6-10 ongoing skilled jobs during its 30 year operational period in addition to service related contracts for maintaining the site similar to those currently performed for Bodangora Wind Farm.

I sincerely hope that the IPC will grant approval for the Mod 4 application for Flyers Creek Wind Farm and that this project can proceed to construction. Such a decision will ensure that companies such as GE continue to see NSW as a jurisdiction that welcomes investment in new and sustainable generation.

The local economic benefits provided by this project are important and the addition of new generation capacity will contribute to supporting the economic development of NSW by providing cleaner, lower cost generation.

GE is confident that the extensive planning assessment associated with the current modification, including consideration of relevant economic, environmental and social issues means this project delivers on sustainable development objectives that are central to the NSW planning system.

GE notes that the NSW Department of Planning concluded that on balance, the proposed modification has merit, and is in the public interest and would encourage the IPC to consent to the modification.