NEOEN

IPC – Public Meeting

Acknowledgement of Country

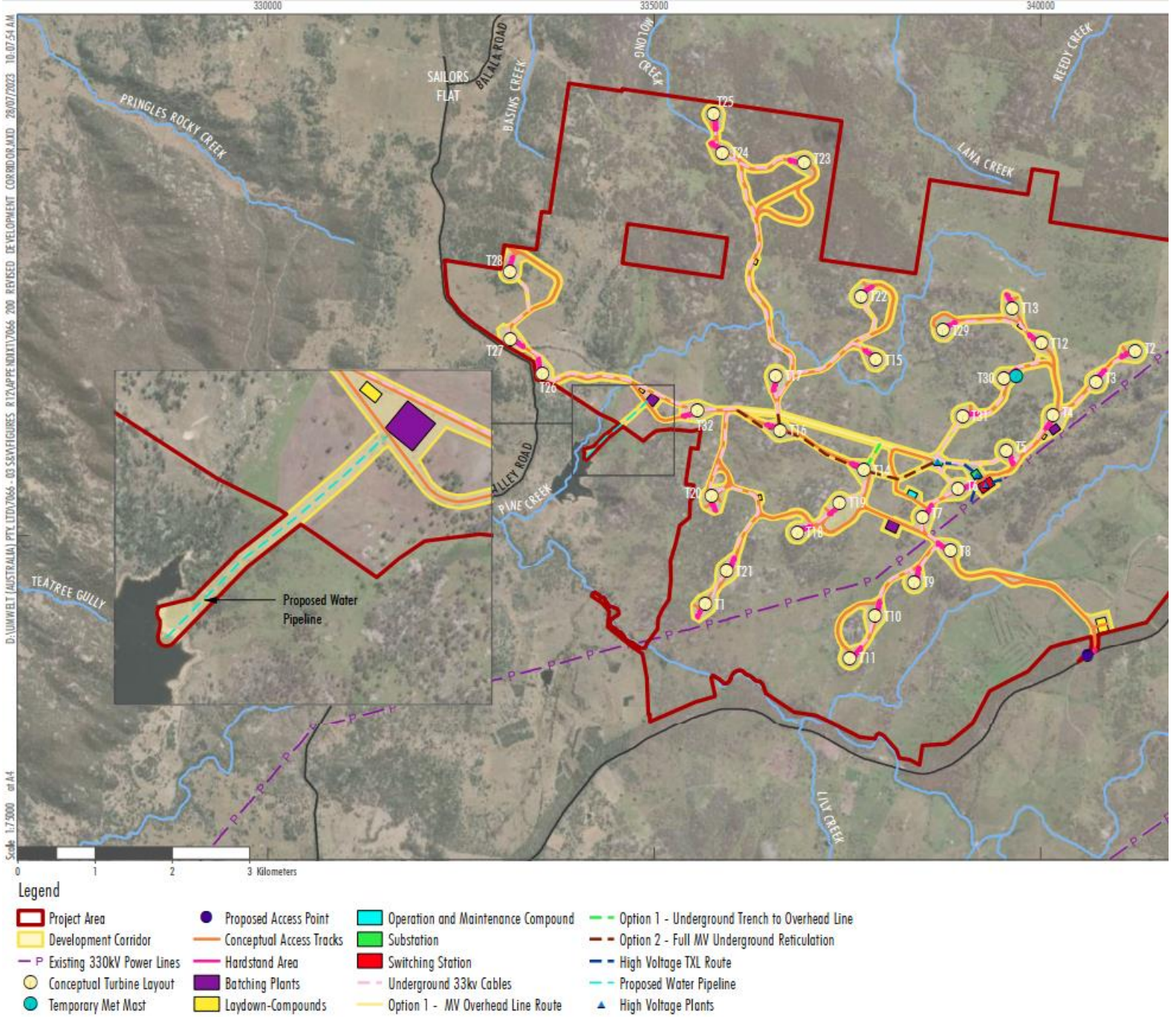
Neoen acknowledges the Gomeroi & Anaiwan people, Traditional Owners of the land on which the Thunderbolt Wind Farm project is located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Agenda

1. Overview
2. Experienced and reliable partner and operator
3. NSW needs renewables
4. Why this site
5. Project Evolution
6. Optimisation of site – biodiversity, visual, wind
7. Other aspects
8. Local benefits
9. Community consultation
10. Conclusion

Project Overview

- **Site entrance:** directly off the **NE Highway.**
- **Size: up to 32 wind turbines** and one onsite substation (29 turbines in **Tamworth Regional** and 3 in **Uralla Shire**).
- **Location:** near Kentucky in the NE REZ.
- **Connection**: into the **existing** 330kV overhead line which crosses the site (Line 86 - Tamworth to Armidale).
- **Landowners: two host landowners** and a further 3 associated landowners.
- **Land use:** Livestock (each host landowner operates separately with sheep and cattle).
- **Infrastructure:** ~45km of internal access roads, O&M Facility, concrete batch plants, construction laydown areas and temporary water pipeline.



Experienced and reliable partner and operator

Experienced operator of wind farms

- Neoen currently has **20 renewable energy assets** under construction or in operation (**3.7 GW**) in Australia, including three large wind farms:
  - Hornsdale (SA) – 316 MW
  - Kaban (QLD) – 157 MW
  - Bulgana (VIC) – 204 MW

And we're **building another 412 MW** (Goyder in SA).

We operate a **further 2.3 GW** of wind across Europe.

Respected and reliable partner and operator

- Neoen is a respected 'offtake' partner and has agreements with **governments, utilities and large corporations.**
- We have **seven offtake agreements** with **State governments.**
- All assets operated around the clock from our 24/7 **Operational Control Centre** in Canberra.
- **Team dedicated to energy management.**

EnergyAustralia coles Flow power BHP

NSW **needs** renewable electricity

Context

- Australia's ageing coal-fired power stations are closing. NSW has four coal fired units, all of which are forecast to close by 2038:
  - Eraring (2,922 MW) – Aug 2025
  - Bayswater (2,665 MW) & Vales Point (1,320 MW) – 2033
  - Mt Piper (1,430 MW) – 2038

Federal targets

- Net zero by 2050
- 43% reduction in 2005 emissions by 2030
- 82% of electricity in the market supplied from renewable sources.

State targets

- Halve emissions by 2030
- Achieve net zero by 2050
- Establish a reliable, affordable and clean energy system

- In summary, Thunderbolt's ~192 MW will contribute in a significant way to both the State and federal targets.

Why this site

Site largely cleared

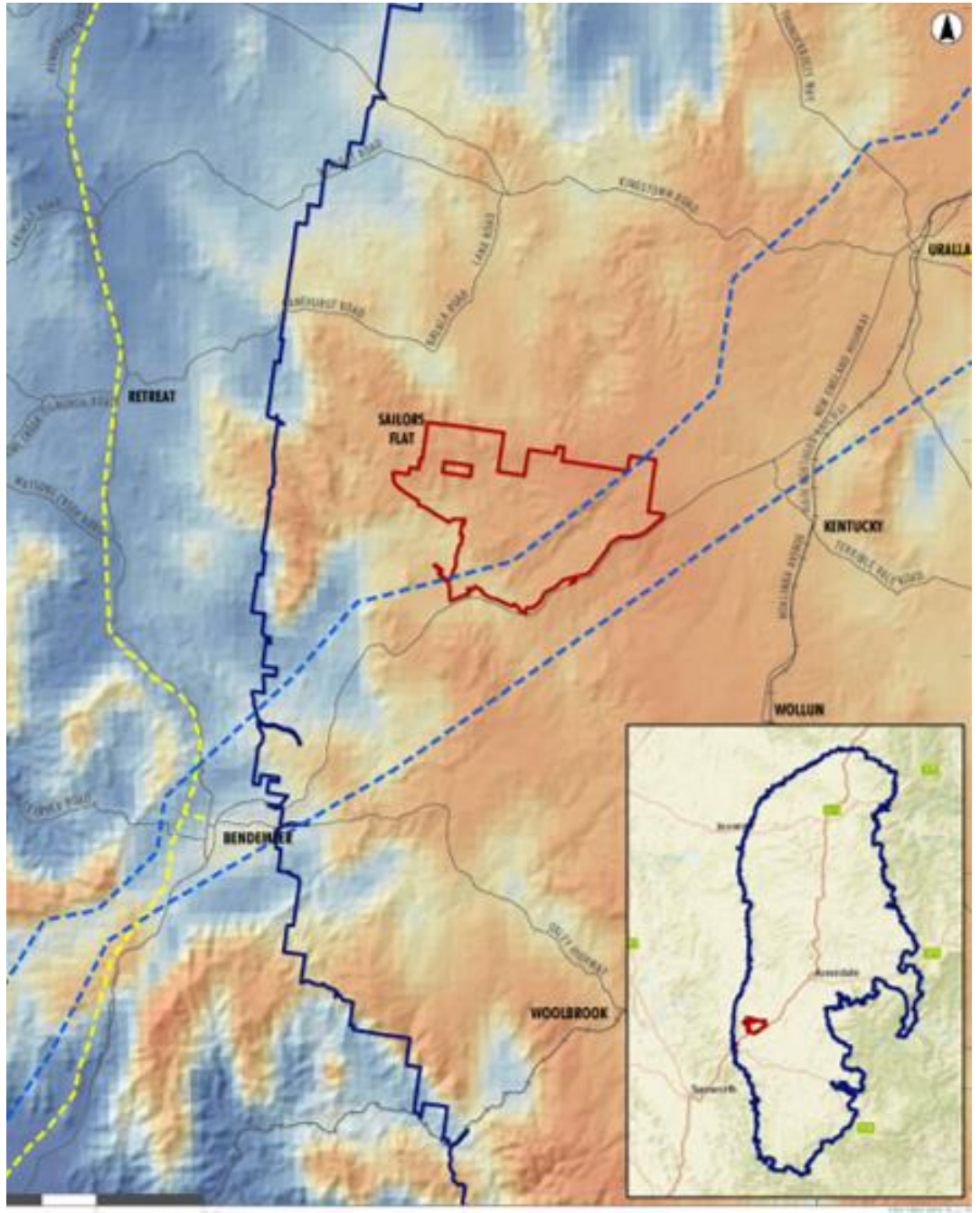
- The project is located within a landscape that has been **largely cleared** for agriculture (grazing and logging).

Great wind resource

- The site has a high average wind speed and good capacity factor (est. 7.6 m/s and 37.8% respectively).
- The project is expected to generate approximately 650,000 MWh per year – enough power for over **100,000 homes** and to avoid **500,000 tonnes of CO2** every year.

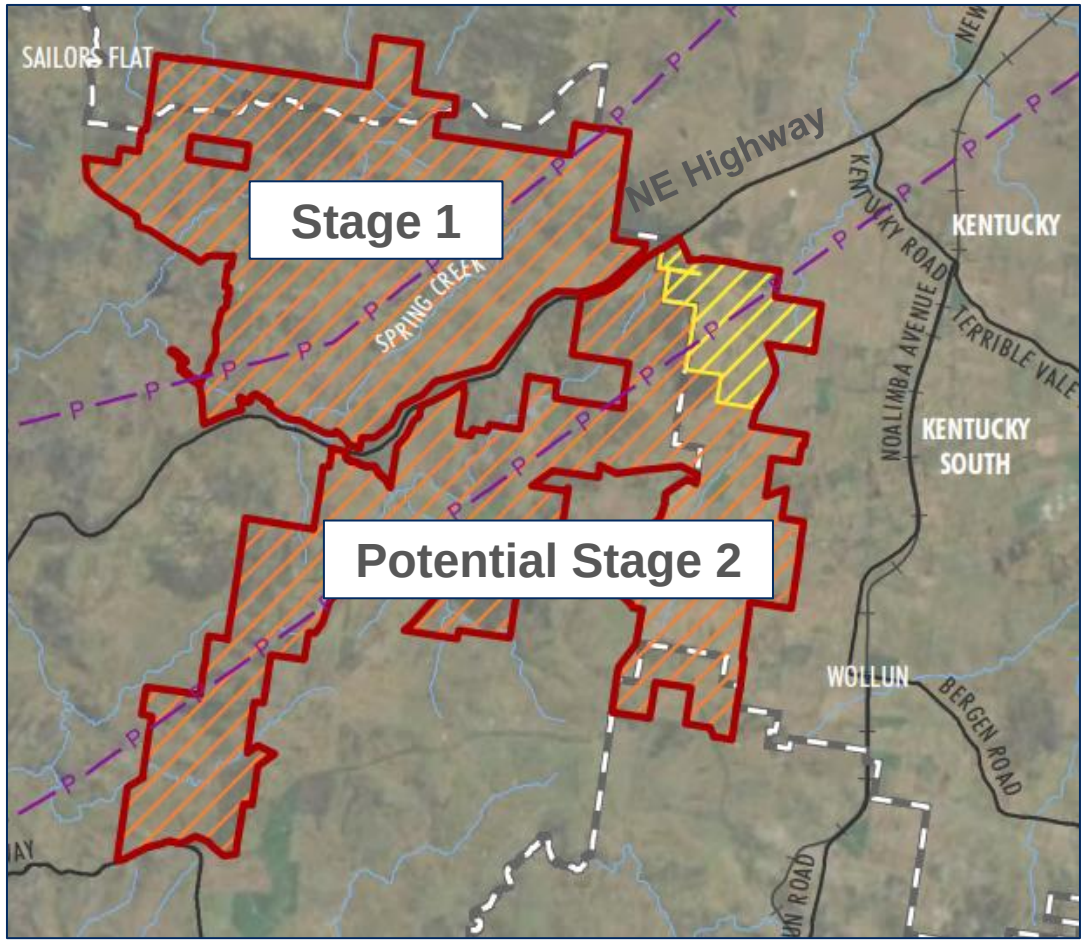
Early electricity for NSW consumers

- Unlike other projects in the NE REZ, Thunderbolt is connecting into an **existing transmission line** within the site.
- The new NE REZ transmission link is not due to be completed until September 2028 – Thunderbolt could therefore be generating well before this, which will contribute to NSW's 2030 **target to halve emissions**.



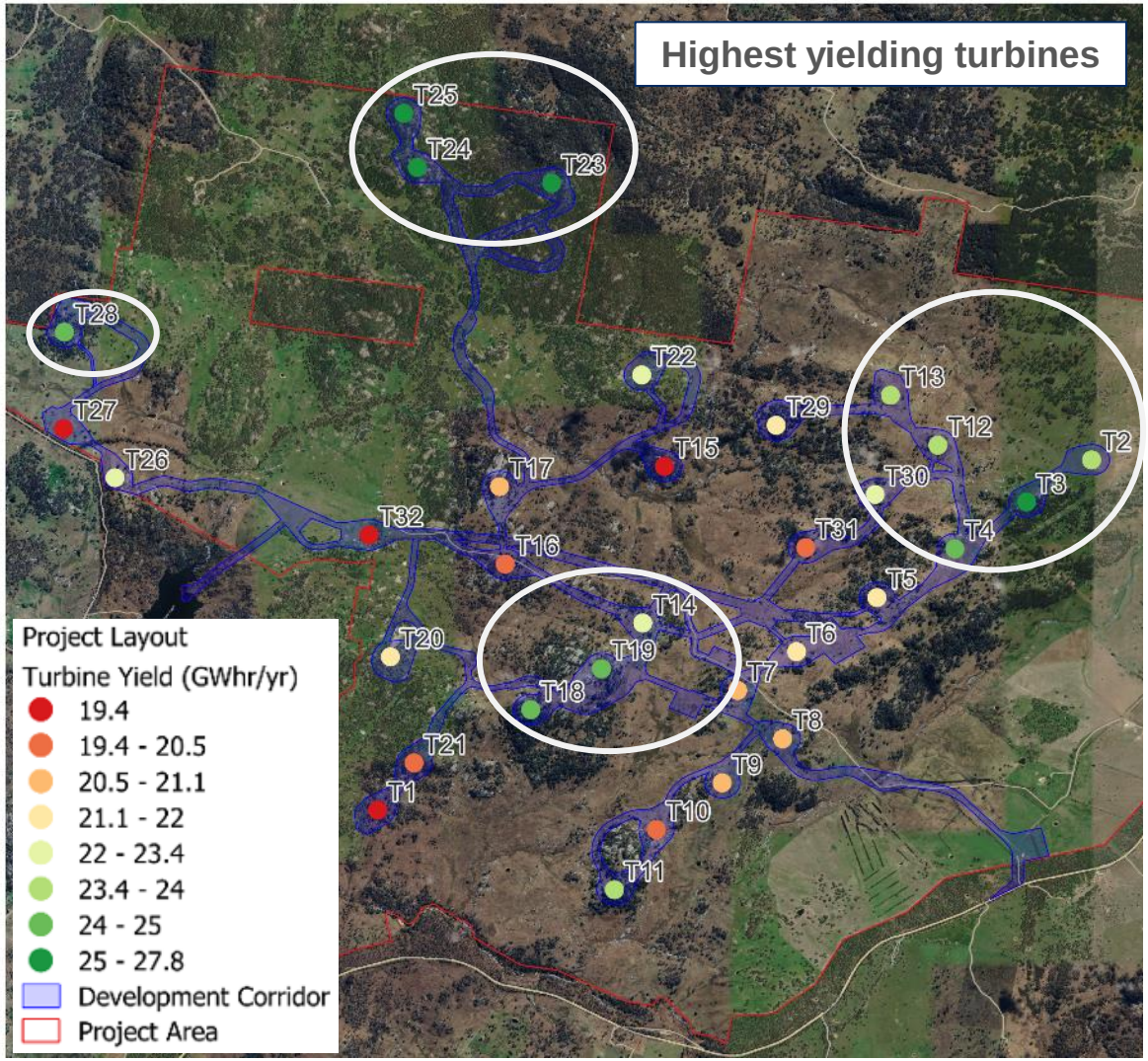
Evolution of the project

- **Original Scoping Report** in Nov 2020 for “Thunderbolt Energy Hub”:
  - **70 turbines, 120 MW of solar & 400 MW battery**
- Issues raised by the community related mainly to:
  - Impact on property value
  - Impacts on visual amenity, noise and environment
  - Disruption during construction
- **The feedback received resulted in the project being split in two:**
  - Stage 1 – **project size reduced to 32 turbines** based on the feedback received; this is the project assessed under the current DA application
  - Stage 2 – this would be the subject of a future DA application and would be treated as a separate project.



Working to minimize impacts

- All proposed turbine locations have **good wind and capacity factors**.
- Wind layout design is a delicate balancing act – **maximizing wind** resource while **minimizing impacts**.
- The **highest wind is in elevated areas**, which often coincides with areas of minimal agricultural activity and therefore **less disturbed vegetation**.
- Elevated areas are often more visible from outside the site boundary.
- We have worked hard to design the project to **minimise impacts** to the extent possible.

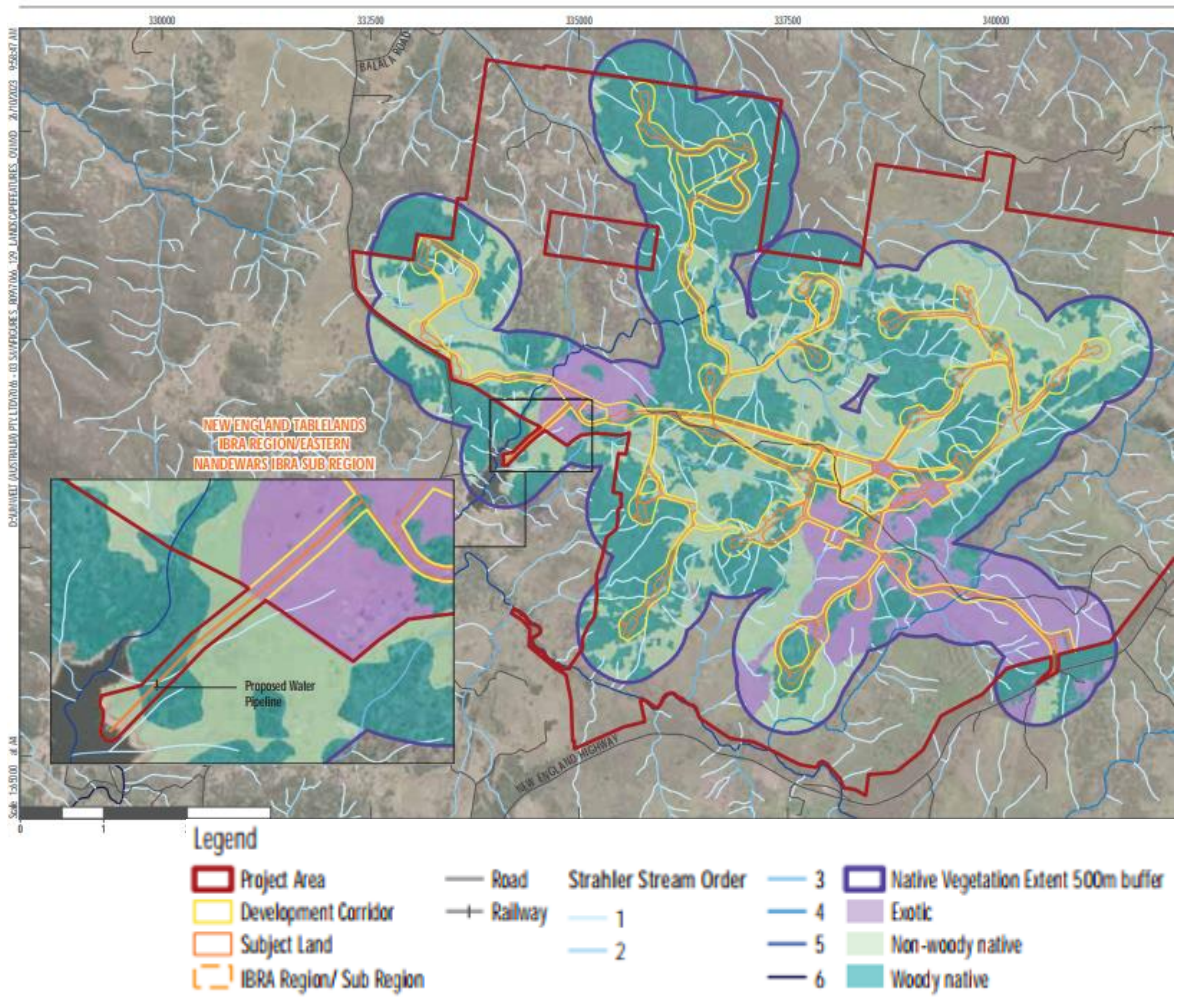


Mitigation of biodiversity impacts

- The project is located on a site that has already been **largely cleared (for agriculture)**, with stands of remnant vegetation existing within a mosaic of native and exotic grazing land.
- The final layout **prioritises** locating infrastructure within **exotic and/or low-quality native grassland.**
- The final project area is approx. 5,918 ha, with a disturbance area of approx. 215.53 ha (**3.64% of the site**) made up of:
  - 82 ha of native woodland; and
  - 80 ha of derived native grassland.

Proposed mitigation measures:

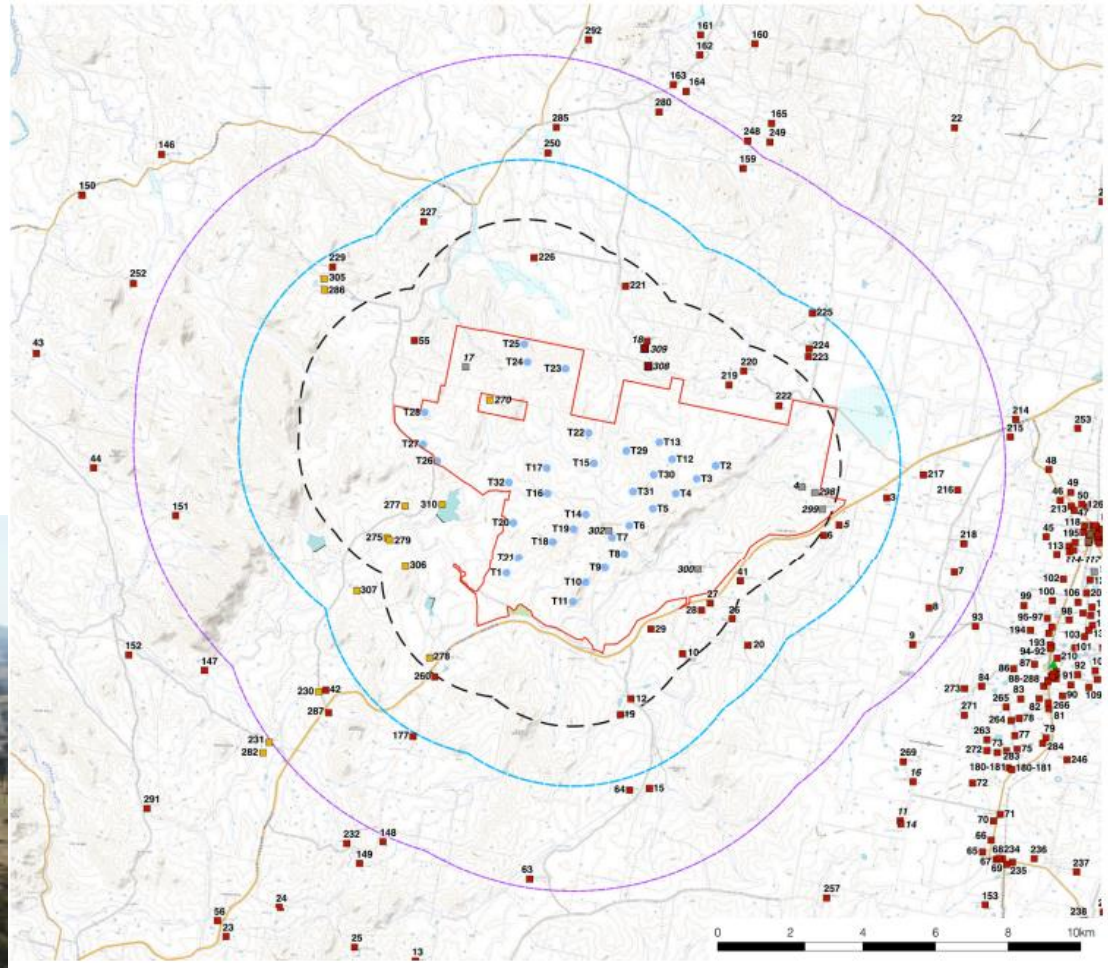
- ✓ Implementation of comprehensive Environmental Management Strategy and Bird and Bad Adaptive Management Plan.
- ✓ Minimum of 50m clear space between the tip of turbine blade and native vegetation.
- ✓ Additional monitoring to be undertaken prior to construction and operation.
- ✓ Commitment to $100,000 investment into a bird and bat strike research program which is supported by DPHI.



Mitigation of landscape and visual impacts

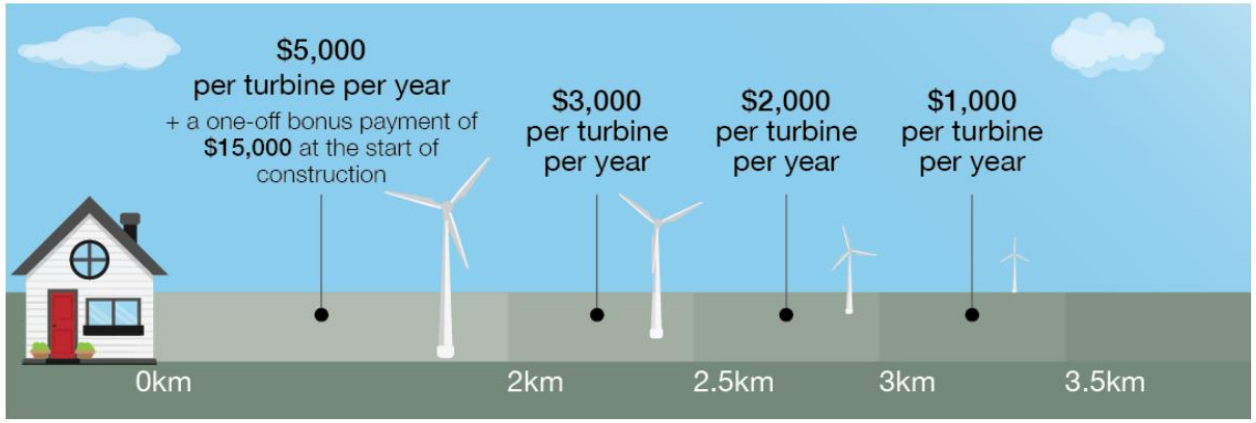
- The final turbine locations have been selected as **existing vegetation provides a large degree of shielding** of these turbines for most residences with a potential view of the project.

- 37 dwellings were identified within 5.1km of the nearest associated turbine:
  - 23 dwellings within the “black line” of 3,450m; and
  - 14 dwellings between the black and “blue line” of 5,100m.
- The LVIA identifies 7 non-associated dwellings with a “moderate” impact and proposes vegetation screen planting to reduce these to “negligible-low”.



Local Benefits

- **Neighbour benefit-sharing**
  - In early host landowner discussions, it was clear that not everyone was going to get a turbine
  - Host landowners wanted their neighbours to still see direct benefits from the project
  - Upfront and annual payments have been offered to all neighbours within 3.5km of a turbine
  - Industry-leading approach - transparent, generous scheme with clear 'no gag' clause
- **Community benefit-sharing**
  - $5M in contributions proposed through Planning Agreements with Uralla Shire and Tamworth Regional Councils.
  - Initial Community Benefit Fund proposed was $100k / year
  - This was increased to $160k / year in response to Council requests
- **Tailored project insights**
  - Ecology Video showing nature of survey work
  - Photomontages online to show visual impact
  - Virtual townhall online throughout Covid
  - Biodiversity credit workshop with NSW Farmers



Community Consultation

- Extensive number of workshops, open days and one to one meetings with local residents.
- Consistent updates on the project through newsletters, local advertisement
- Presented to a wide range of community organisations through development
- The consultation undertaken indicated the project has local support, as has our online community survey where the level of support is currently 74.5% (based on 78 responses between 2020 and today).

Moving Forward based on Community Feedback

1. Opening a project shopfront that will be managed by a local person (likely to be in Uralla). The shopfront will be open 1-2 days per week for any members of the public to attend and discuss the project.
2. Quarterly updates on Project through newsletter/website.
3. Proactive engagement with nearby residents of the project area, 1-on-1 meetings and follow-up phone calls/emails on items raised.
4. Jobseeker and Supplier Networking Session – organising a community information and supplier network session for local jobseekers, suppliers and businesses to drop-in and discover job opportunities.

Conclusion

- Neoen has developed Thunderbolt Wind Farm in accordance with the EP&A Act and Wind Energy Guidelines and agrees with DPHI's assessment that it is an **approvable project.**
- The project has been sited and located in a manner that minimises impacts to the extent possible while maximising the capture of wind resources available on the site.
- Neoen has undertaken extensive community engagement since 2019 and the project has evolved significantly since this time based on the conversations had and feedback received.
- When constructed, the project will live in Neoen's portfolio long-term – we continue to build social licence and deepen the relationships we have with the key local stakeholders.
- Once operational, Thunderbolt Wind Farm will:
  - **Deliver clean electricity to power 100,000 homes per year and offset 500,000t of CO2**
  - **Help reach** both state and federal energy targets due to its high wind resource.
  - Deliver more than $5M in financial **benefits** to Tamworth Regional and Uralla Shire Councils and neighbours over the life of the asset.
  - Diversify revenues on pastoral farmland and support local businesses through the impacts of climate change.