

PROJECT UPDATE

Development of Granite Hills Wind Farm is accelerating as we move into 2019. The comprehensive bird studies are due to be finalised in late April. Considerable work is underway on the electricity network connection and telecommunications to ensure local communications will be as good, or even better than they currently are once Granite Hills Wind Farm is constructed.

The project team is in the planning phase of the next round of studies. These include heritage, aviation and transportation planning, with noise and visual studies to commence at a later date.

Upon completion of certain studies, including birds, the project team will develop an updated turbine layout. This layout will be designed to ensure the turbines are placed in low impact areas.

Based on updates from our independent consultants, we now anticipate all of these studies will wrap up in Q2/Q3 2019 and the Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted in Q3 2019.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The last CCC meeting was held on Tuesday 7th of December 2018. Minutes of all CCC meetings can be found on the project website. Every meeting is chaired by the Independent Chair, Peter Gordon. Peter can be contacted via 0417 064 767 or peter.gordon@charterpoint.com.au. The next CCC meeting will be held in March 2019.

SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

We are looking for people who live locally or are members of local stakeholder groups to join our CCC. The CCC role is voluntary. Meetings are generally held four times per year. You will be expected to contribute constructively, attend meetings and share information about Granite Hills Wind Farm between the committee and broader community. For more information visit our website.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community relations is at the forefront of everything we do when developing a wind project. This is vital because the wind farm will be a part of the community's infrastructure for 25 years or more. Our liaison team will be visiting residents and meeting with local businesses and community groups during coming months to provide information and collect feedback about the project. They can be contacted via 1800 961 761 or emailed on granitehills@akuoenergy.com.

WELCOME

Our newsletters focus on updating you about the project, sharing any news, events or engagement activities in the community.

Visit the website today and register your interest to receive these updates about the project via email.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Granite Hills Wind Farm is a State Significant Development, situated in Steeple Flat, approximately 12 kilometres South East of Nimmitabel in New South Wales. When complete the project will comprise of up to 32-wind turbines, with approximately 3-5 megawatts capacity and a maximum tip height of 200 metres. The 132MW wind farm would generate enough clean energy for around 50,000 homes.

STAY IN TOUCH

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the project, please send an email to granitehills@akuoenergy.com or phone 1800 961 761.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will be the life of Granite Hills Wind Farm and how much energy will it generate?

The wind farm will be in operation for about 25-30 years. On average it will generate enough clean energy to power about 50,000 Australian homes.

Will 500 acres of trees be cleared?

No, this number is greatly exaggerated. By using existing roads and cleared areas, the project team have made it a priority to avoid clearing where possible. Current estimates suggest project clearing will be far less than 100 acres.

How many jobs will be offered – short term and long term?

Wind farms create significant job opportunities during construction and for the life of the project. Using published numbers on comparable NSW wind farms as a basis, Granite Hills Wind Farm can expect to create approximately 142 jobs during construction and 13 during operations. As many of these jobs as possible will be sourced from the local community.

I'm a local contractor, how can I become involved during construction?

The project team would love to hear from you. Please send an email to granitehills@akuoenergy.com to let us know who you are, what you do and how you would like to be involved. We will track all inquiries received and reach out when the time is right.

Are possible impacts on people related to Granite Hills Wind Farm being considered?

Definitely. Granite Hills Wind Farm is required to undertake intensive studies using independent external specialists on everything from noise and visual impacts to water and the environment. There are strict specifications which the project will have to adhere to in order to be given approval to operate.

Will the wind turbines noise affect me?

Granite Hills Wind Farm is being designed according to noise standards from the NSW Department of Environment, which are some of the strictest in the world. They require the sound heard by neighbours to be less than the equivalent sound of rainfall - about the sound of a whisper. The maximum allowable noise level for project neighbours is 35db and we intend to keep all turbines at least 1km away from the nearest neighbour.

Could the wind farm affect livestock?

All around the world wind farms and animals co-exist in harmony, including in Australia.

Do wind farms affect property values?

There have been numerous studies into this which have found little to no impact on property value. You can check out a report by Urbis, a well-known and respected company in the property industry. The report can be found on our website on the project information tab.

Will the wind farm lower my cost of electricity?

Renewable energy is currently the lowest cost new form of energy and vastly cheaper than conventional sources. Having more wind energy in the market will reduce the state-wide cost of generation and should positively impact consumers' pockets.

Is there any intention to assist the community?

Most definitely. Granite Hills Wind Farm intends to spread the benefits of the wind farm with the nearby neighbours to the project as well as the wider community. The nature of these programs will be determined over the coming months based upon engagement with the community.

Will the wind farm affect bush firefighting?

Interestingly, access tracks constructed for wind farms are seen as beneficial to fighting bush fires, particularly in remote areas like Granite Hills. While the height of turbines does pose a risk to low flying aircraft, aerial firefighting is routinely done in close proximity to wind farms in Australia and around the world.

Where can I find out more information and how do I get in contact?

Visit our website for latest information about the project and to review the Community Plan which outlines how we will interact with the community. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please send an email to granitehills@akuoenergy.com or phone 1800 961 761.

How loud is too loud?

Government research suggests the safe exposure limit is 85 decibels for eight hours a day. Your hearing could be at risk of damage if you are continually exposed to high volume sounds.

Here are some common decibel levels:

