

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

For immediate release

### **Granite Hills Wind Farm takes action to keep community updated**

Granite Hills Wind Farm is going the extra mile to keep the community updated on the project's progress, putting community relations at the forefront of everything they are now doing to develop the wind farm. Given a wind farm becomes part of the community's infrastructure for 25 years or more, their renewed focus on communication is expected to be well received.

Shane Quinnell, Akuo Energy representative said, "Stakeholder engagement and proactive communication is our priority and will continue throughout the project life cycle. Granite Hills Wind Farm strives to ensure project staff communicate widely and in a manner which is open, inclusive, responsive and accountable. There has been specific incorrect information published about our project by other parties recently and we're trying our best to correct it."

He continued, "I want to let the community know 500 acres of trees will definitely not be cleared for the project. We will be using existing roads and cleared areas wherever possible. Current estimates indicate the actual amount of tree clearing is likely to be far less than 100 acres."

Members of the local community are encouraged to sign up to the electronic newsletter via the project website to stay up to date with project information. They can also be posted if you don't have internet access.

When operational, Granite Hills Wind Farm will comprise of up to 32-wind turbines, with approximately 3-5 megawatts capacity. The 132MW wind farm would generate enough clean energy for to power around 50,000 homes for approximately 25 years. When developing renewable projects there are a lot of positive outcomes for the environment including

- vastly less pollution generated by the project
- less water is used to generate energy compared to fossil fuel technologies like coal
- wind energy is the cheapest form of energy generation in the Australia, which should ultimately positively impact peoples power bills and pockets

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 to mitigate and avoid possible impacts as far as possible.

Granite Hills Wind Farm will endeavour to support the local community. This will include benefit sharing opportunities with nearby neighbours as well as the wider community. The nature of these community benefit initiatives will be determined over the coming months, based upon engagement with and feedback from local residents and business owners.

Visit our website for latest information about the project. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please send an email to [granitehills@akuoenergy.com](mailto:granitehills@akuoenergy.com) or phone 1800 961 761.

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**Granite Hills Wind Farm**

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 operational the wind farm 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.

**About Akuo Energy**

Akuo Energy, the leader of the proposed Granite Hills Wind Farm, is passionate about participating in the transition to a future fuelled by clean energy. Information about the benefits of wind energy to both the environment and the economy can be found [here](#).