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INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL FOR BANGO WIND FARM

It was announced yesterday that the Bango Wind Farm, which will be located 30 km north of Yass in NSW, has been approved by the NSW Independent Planning Commission. Approval has been granted for the construction of up to 71 wind turbine generators, which is welcome news for project developer CWP Renewables.

“We are thrilled with today’s announcement,” Kristy Old, Development Manager at CWP Renewables, said yesterday. “We have been working with government agencies and the local community over many years to ensure that this project balances social, environmental and economic needs.”

In their appraisal of the project, the Commission acknowledged the wide range of community views but found the project to be in the public interest.

In support of the determination, a recent study by the Australian Wind Alliance has found that communities that host wind farms can expect significant rewards. The *Building Stronger Communities* report outlines the financial and social benefits currently enjoyed by the communities that host the 82 operational wind farms in Australia today.

Bango Wind Farm will be no different. Project construction is expected to create 150 fulltime equivalent jobs, with a local spending stimulus of over \$4 million during the construction period. Over its 25-year operational life, the wind farm will contribute approximately \$12 million to Yass Valley and Hilltops Councils through rate returns and Community Enhancement Funds, which will be used to fund local community projects. It is also expected that ten fulltime jobs will be created to oversee maintenance and ongoing operations of the wind farm.

“In addition, the 525 GWh per year of electricity produced by the Bango Wind Farm will replace an equivalent amount of higher cost, higher emission electricity,” said Ms. Old.

References

NSW Independent Planning Commission Determination:
<http://ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/02/bango-wind-farm>

The Australian Wind Alliance *Building Stronger Communities* Report and factsheet can be found at:
http://www.windalliance.org.au/rural_communities_windfalls_from_wind_farms

Background

CWP Renewables is an Australian renewable energy developer and asset manager of wind, solar and integrated storage solutions. To date the company has developed and financed 383 MW and of wind farm projects, operates 490 MW, and holds a differentiated pipeline of over 2,000 MW of new projects, including further wind and solar developments within the NEM and the Asian Renewable Energy Hub.

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