

# MEDIA RELEASE

20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## **Inaugural Meeting for Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee.**

Representatives of the local community and Livingstone Shire and Isaac Regional Councils, alongside members of the project team, have participated in the first community consultative committee meeting for the 800-megawatt (MW) Clarke Creek Wind Farm last week.

Goldwind Community Engagement Manager Clare Powell commented “Working with the community has been a key focus for the project since the first community events were held in 2017. The appointment of a Community Relations Officer and formation of the community consultative committee have been key recent activities.

“The committee is intended to be a tool to keep the community informed, seek community views and respond to matters raised by the community. The committee will have an advisory and consultative role within the project’s delivery, particularly for the development and delivery of the community fund for the project. The \$200,000 annual community fund will commence once the project starts construction.” said Clare.

Noel Herley of MiCOMM Pty Ltd, has been appointed to act as the independent chairperson for the committee.

“My ongoing role as independent chairperson for the committee is to convene meetings and act as a facilitator for the committee. I’ve had several years’ experience in similar roles for committees for large-scale infrastructure projects in regional and Central Queensland.

“The inaugural committee meeting provided an opportunity for all members to get to know each other. The project team gave an update on the wind farm’s construction program and their current focus areas for community feedback and discussion. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to meet quarterly, with the next meeting date scheduled for 2nd April 2020. Observers are welcome to be in touch if they would like to attend a future meeting.” said Noel.

The committee sits alongside other information sharing initiatives as part of the wider community engagement for the wind farm, this includes the recently opened Marlborough Information Centre.

“The Information Centre in Marlborough and employment of a local Community Relations Officer is a foretaste of the 350 construction jobs and significant regional benefits that the project will deliver. Since opening in September last year, approximately 80 visitors have dropped into the Information Centre to learn more about the project.” Commented Clare.

Located on the backbone of the Powerlink 275 kV transmission network approximately 150km northwest of Rockhampton, the Clarke Creek Integrated Wind, Solar and Battery Project will have a construction cost totalling over \$1.5 billion.

State and Federal approvals to construct and operate the wind farm are in place and detailed pre-construction planning is underway.

The project is expected to create up to 350 jobs on site during the three-year construction period and have up to 25 permanent staff once operational.

Goldwind Australia have partnered with Lacour Energy to deliver the project. With a generation capacity of 800 MW, the wind farm component of the project is set to be the biggest wind farm in Australia.

Once operational, the wind farm will power approximately 590,000 Queensland homes, supplying approximately 4% of Queensland’s electricity needs.

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