

Community Newsletter #6

Sunny Corner Wind Farm Community Update – 7 March 2025

Hello Community Members,

Thank you to everyone who joined our recent drop-in sessions in Sunny Corner, Yetholme, and Portland – nearly 200 people came along! It was wonderful to meet so many locals. Many conversations were had, and it was great to hear so many questions from the community and listen to the varied feedback about the project. Thank you for your interest, honesty, and frank conversation. Your feedback will help us co-design a successful wind farm with consideration of the community's needs and values.

Key messages

- Concept-only layout: The current proposed turbine locations, noise assessment, and access roads are all preliminary and indicative right now.
 We've only recently released the project's Scoping Report and are just beginning the Environmental Impact Assessment process under NSW State Significant Development guidelines.
- Community voices matter: Your questions and feedback are crucial. We want the final project to consider what matters most to this community. There will be an opportunity for the community to provide formal written comment on the project once the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is submitted. Preparing the EIS is expected to take more than 12 months, with lodgement estimated to be around April-June 2026. In the meantime, if you have feedback or questions we want to hear them, there are several ways that you can get in touch (see 'Staying connected').
- **No final decisions made**: As we conduct further studies on noise, visual impacts, environmental considerations, technical considerations, and road access, things may change. We'll keep you updated as plans develop.

What we heard (top matters emphasised)

- **Community consultation:** We heard a desire for open, transparent communication and respectful dialogue to ensure everyone is heard and respected, even if opinions differ.
- Visual amenity and forest impacts: Concerns about how turbines will look on the landscape and the extent of forest clearing were key questions for neighbours who identified as living within around 1,800m of proposed turbine locations. A detailed landscape and visual impact assessment will start later this month and will be presented in the EIS.
- **Noise and traffic:** There were questions about how these will be managed during both construction and operation, including how local roads will be managed or upgraded during the project. Access road selection is also a top matter for detailed independent assessment thank you to everyone who has been raising various alternative options to what has initially been proposed.





- Wildlife and environment: Some had queries about how we plan to protect local habitats and address potential issues like blade wear. We have assessed one season of bird flight activity to understand the impacts of the project on birds and bats. We have a further seven seasons of assessment left before the detailed investigation is complete.
- Community benefits: Thanks to all those who have already provided feedback on the types of benefits this project could bring and the ways in which the local community and neighbours can be supported. There was a strong interest in fair distribution of jobs, training, and other local benefits. Community members also raised the importance of ensuring financial benefits sharing arrangements were communicated (when available) regarding the Neighbour Benefits and Community Benefits Programs. Please fill out our survey on community benefits.

Our next steps

- **TrueView consults:** We will be contacting individuals who are nearest to the proposed project and who expressed interest in having a TrueView consultation at their property with our project team. TrueView is a consultation tool which helps visualise the preliminary layout of the project. We plan to book these in over the next few months.
- Neighbour Benefits Program: We are finalising our Neighbour Benefits
 Program and will discuss this with nearest neighbours over the coming
 months.
- Independent technical assessments in-region: Several technical consultants will begin visiting the area over the next few months to continue conducting independent assessments for the EIS. These will include visual, noise, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage specialists (in partnership with Registered Aboriginal Parties), among others, to monitor and survey the area. The project team may contact neighbours close to the proposed site to organise access for these assessments. If you have questions about these assessments or what the technical consultants are focussed on, please reach out directly to us at community@someva.com.au.
- Materials and information: We're putting together updated fact sheets and Q&A documents to help respond to your questions and the issues raised during the drop-in sessions. We've also made the factsheets we had at the drop-in sessions available to view or print at www.sunnycornerwindfarm.com.au.
- Community benefits survey: Have your say in shaping how we can share
 the benefits of this project with the community. Please fill out our survey and
 share with your own network:
 https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SunnyCornerBenefits

- Council and First Nations engagement: Ongoing conversations with Lithgow and Bathurst Councils and local First Nations groups ensure that everyone's voice is included in the process.
- **Scoping Report:** The Scoping Report for the proposed Sunny Corner Wind Farm is available at the NSW Planning Portal here: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sunny-corner-wind-farm.

Staying connected

- **Website updates**: Check <u>www.sunnycornerwindfarm.com.au</u> for regular news and to access fact sheets and other content such as Q&As.
- Questions or comments? If you couldn't attend a drop-in session or have new questions, feel free to reach out at any time. We're here to listen.

Every conversation and survey response helps us create a successful wind farm that supports the community. We look forward to keeping the conversation going and sharing more details as we move through our assessments!

Reach out directly to community@someva.com.au.

Kind regards, Felicity



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