

NEOEN



Thunderbolt Energy Hub CCC Meeting

25 July 2022

Acknowledgment of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the country on which we work and on which the project is located and pay respect to their Elders – past, present and future.

1. **Actions from the last CCC Meeting**
2. Project Update
3. Community Consultation Summary
4. Next Steps

Actions from the last CCC Meeting

1. Neoen will circulate to the CCC members the methodology behind neighbour payments.
2. Cllr Sarah Burrows will investigate what the Uralla Council currently requires of UPC with regard to Council roads.
3. Send a USB containing the EIS directly to each CCC member when they are available.
4. Neoen will provide a summary of issues in relation to the Bald Hills Wind Farm Court Case to the next meeting.

ACTION 1: Neoen will circulate to the CCC members the methodology behind neighbour payments.

- The intention of the neighbour benefits model was to ensure it is easy to understand, transparent and does not involve complex calculations.
- Neoen decided to propose a higher starting payment and keep this constant over the 25-30 year lifetime rather than indexing a lower starting payment
- As discussed in the last meeting, this provides neighbours with certainty of payment on an annual basis and no need to calculate the payment to be received on an annual basis
- Neighbour payments are included in Neoen's financial model
- The neighbour payments will be included in the operational costs of the project, meaning they do not vary based on how much energy is generated by the Project
- Amounts were chosen to be meaningful for neighbours, while ensuring the project remains competitive and cost of energy would remain low for NSW consumers

ACTION 2: Clr Sarah Burrows will investigate what the Uralla Council currently requires of UPC with regard to Council roads.

ACTION 3: Send a USB containing the EIS directly to each CCC member when they are available.

This was completed. If anyone did not receive a USB or would like another USB, please let us know.

ACTION 4: Neoen will provide a summary of issues in relation to the Bald Hills Wind Farm (BHWF) Court Case to the next meeting.

Summary of the Bald Hills Wind Farm court case

- Common law nuisance occurred in the specific circumstances of BHWF
- BHWF noise criteria were derived under NZS 6808:1998 as the greater of:
 - 40 dB(A) or
 - background + 5 dB(A)
- There was no determination made regarding the compliance or non-compliance with the BHWF Permit Conditions (i.e. neither compliance nor non-compliance was proved),
- If compliance had been proved, the court would have considered this evidence.

Thunderbolt Wind Farm

- NZS 6808:1998 (the standard that applied to BHWF) is superseded and has never been used in NSW
- Thunderbolt noise criteria are lower than at BHWF, and are the greater of:
 - 35 dB(A) or
 - background + 5 dB(A)



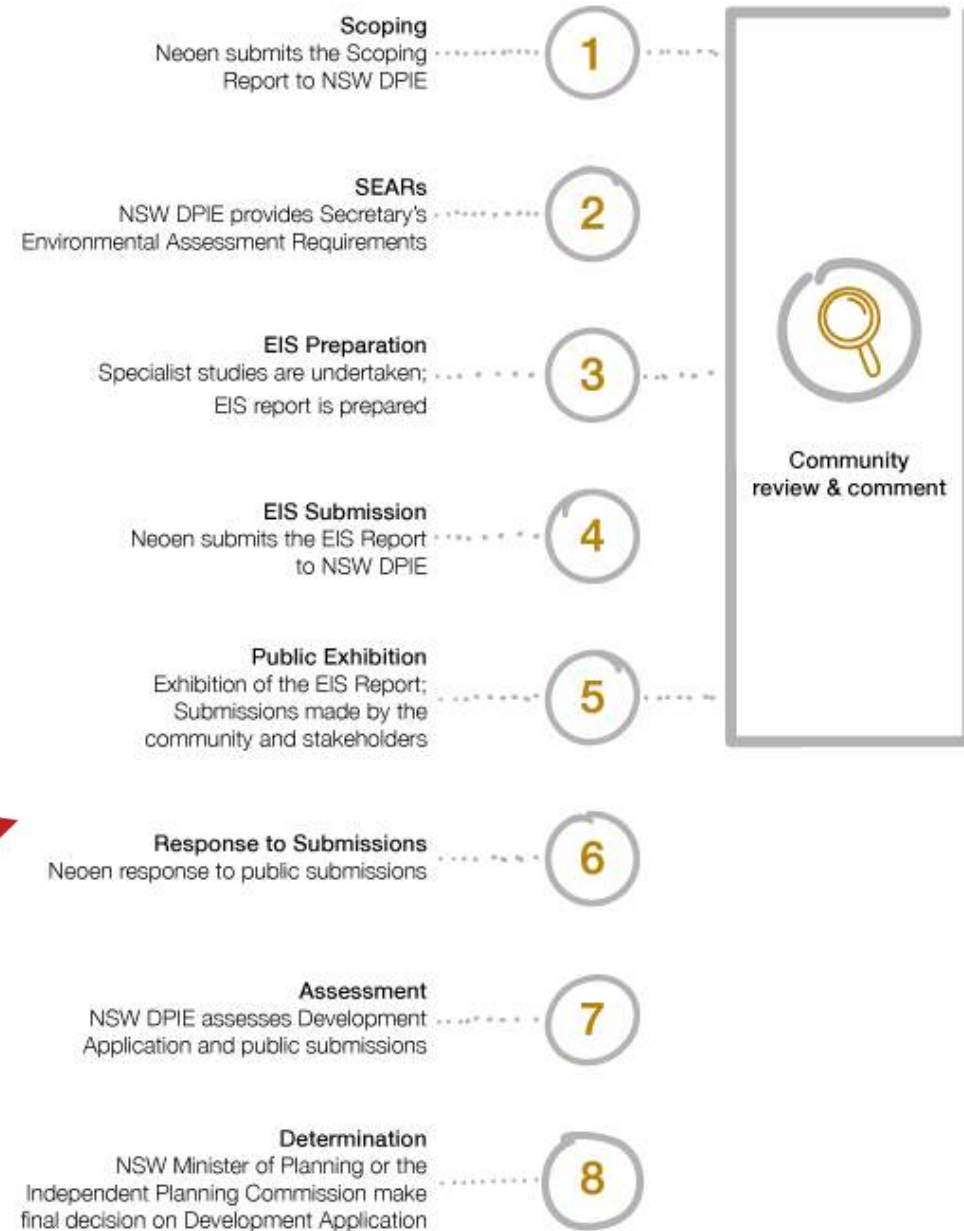
1. Actions from the last CCC Meeting

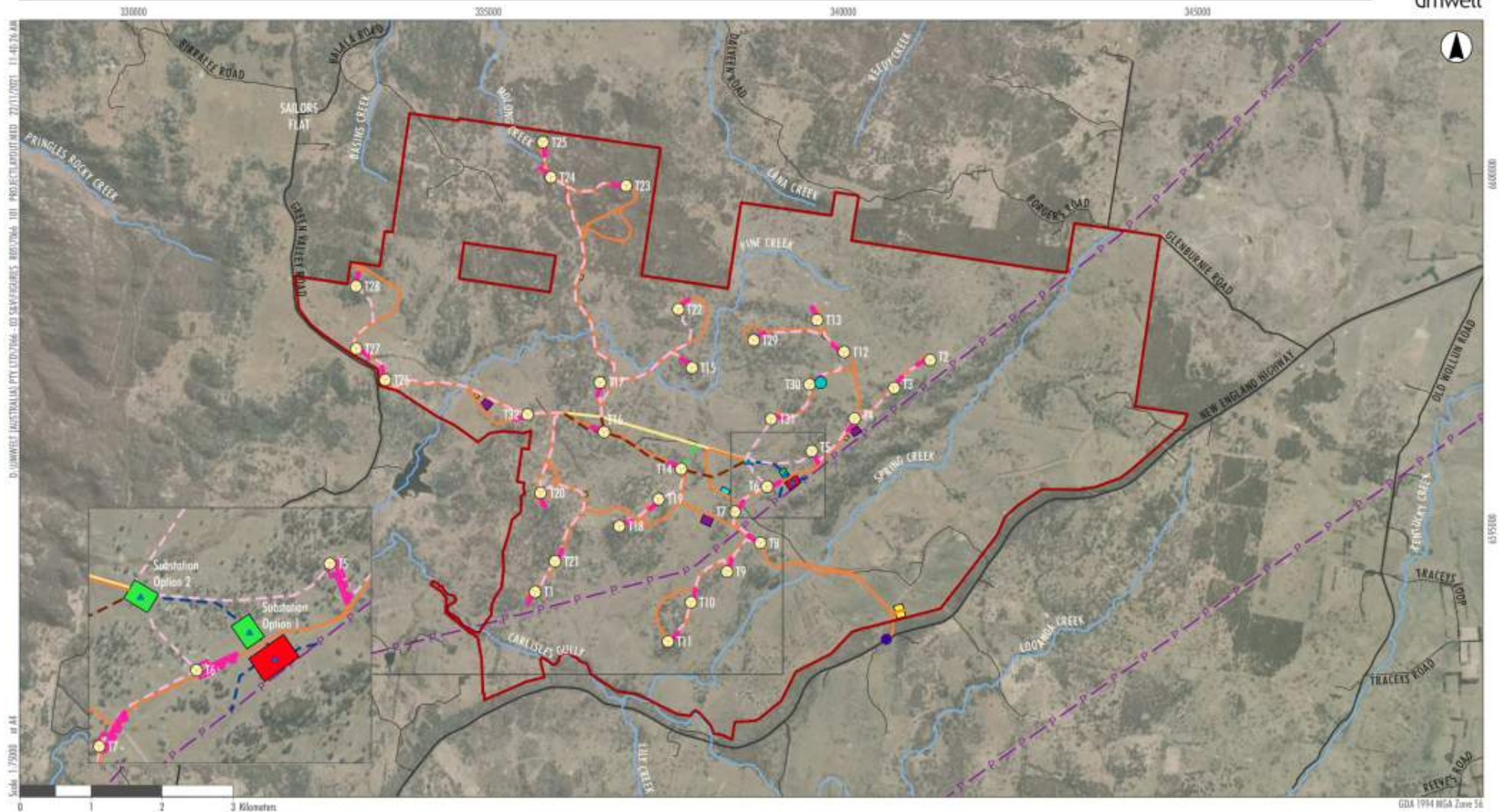
- 2. Project Update**

3. Community Consultation Summary

Next Steps

- DA submitted April, public exhibition finished on 24 May
- 119 submissions, 14 for, 98 against, 7 comments
- Tamworth Council provided comment, Uralla Council has objected
- This means following the NSW Government assessment, the project requires secondary approval by NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC)
- Neoen will submit a Response to Submission (RTS) report to NSW Government in the next few months
- NSW DPE will undertake its assessment of the EIS
- The project will be referred to the NSW IPC (this could take an additional 2-3 months or so)
- DA decision expected in Q2 2023
- Construction to occur in 2024





- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Hardstand Area
 - Switching Station
 - Batching Plants
 - Conceptual Turbine Layout
 - Laydown-Compounds
 - Temporary Mat Mast
 - Operation and Maintenance Compound
 - Proposed Access Point
 - Substation
 - Conceptual Access Tracks
 - Option 2 - Full MV Underground Reticulation
 - Existing 330kV Power Lines
 - High Voltage TXL Route
 - Underground 33kV Cables
 - High Voltage Plants
 - Option 1 - MV Overhead Line Route
 - Option 1 - Underground Trench to Overhead Line

FIGURE 3.2
Conceptual Project Layout

Key Concerns Raised in Public Submissions

- Biodiversity impacts
- Visual impacts
- Noise and vibration impacts
- Community consultation undertaken by Neoen
- Foreign ownership of the host landholder property and proponent
- Perceived reduction in property values
- Perceived inability to undertake aerial firefighting

Neoen will provide an updated response on key items raised in public submission at the next CCC

Agency Feedback Summary

CASA

- Recommends lighting on wind turbines
- Neoen will consult with CASA to discuss this as the aviation assessment found that lighting would not be required for the project.
- Neoen's strong position is that lighting is not required.

BCS

- Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) to be prepared prior to construction
- Consultation is ongoing with BSC about the submission

DPE Water

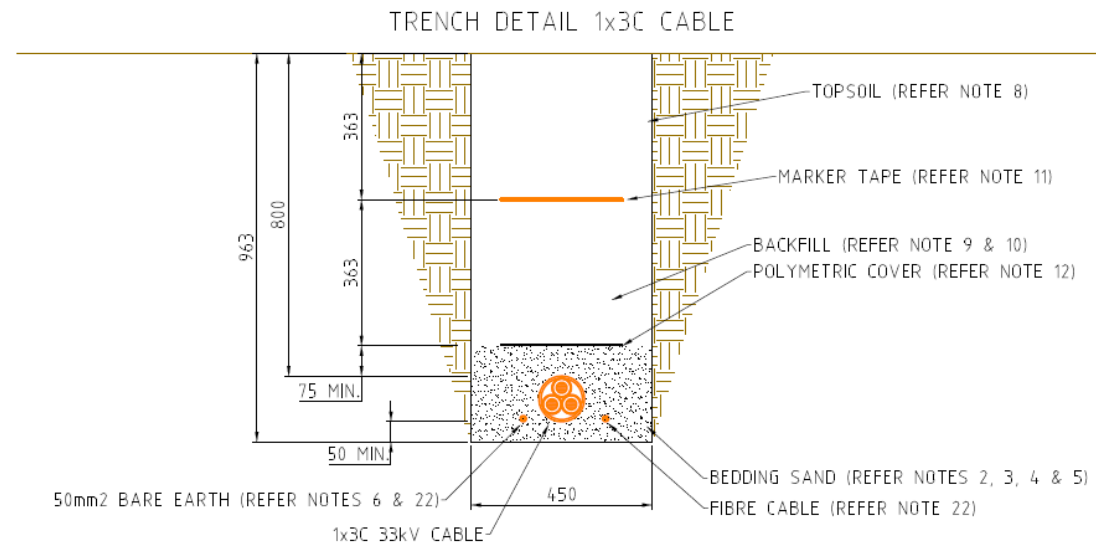
- Would like further information on water sources
- Neoen is investigating options to source water

NSW Heritage

- Test excavations to be undertaken in areas of potential archaeological deposits (PADs)
- Test excavations are being undertaken at present and will be included in the Response to Submissions (RTS) report

DPI Ag

- Advised that infrastructure at a depth of less than 500mm on productive agricultural land should be removed during decommissioning
- Typically underground cables are installed at a depth greater than 500mm (see below showing 800mm).



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Community Engagement Summary

Neoen is proud of its efforts to engage with the community around the Thunderbolt Energy Hub.

By consulting early, often and through a variety of methods, Neoen has been able to listen and respond to the most acute concerns, including by reducing the project from the 70 turbines considered in the scoping report, down to 32 in the Development Application.

- The project has strong local support, scoring 74% in the community feedback survey
- Neoen has hosted 4 community info days (Feb-2020, Sep-2020, Sep-2021 and Apr-2022)
- Over 70 one-on-one meetings held
- Three mailbox drops to Kentucky residents
- A comprehensive website
- Community Consultative Committee (CCC) established in Jul-2021, 4 meetings held to date
- Comprehensive community benefit sharing programs proposed, including an innovative neighbour program which has the potential to benefit 13 families within 3.5km of the project

