

NEOEN



Thunderbolt Energy Hub CCC Meeting

30th July 2024

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 emerging.

1. **Actions from the last CCC Meeting**

2. Project Update

Actions from the last CCC Meeting

ACTION 1: Neoen to investigate if it is possible for the community to form a group to buy electricity.

ACTION 2: Neoen to provide information on other communities/projects where they have advocated successfully to improve telecommunications.

ACTION 3: Neoen to share the report from the fire at the Victorian Big Battery.

ACTION 4: Neoen to investigate and share any research into microclimate changes, cumulative impact as per the questions asked.

ACTION 5: Neoen to investigate sound deterrent examples for the next meeting.

ACTION 6: Neoen and the Chair to provide ideas from other areas e.g., Singleton, Muswellbrook where funds/projects/VPAs have been in existence for some time.

ACTION 1: Neoen to investigate if it is possible for the community to form a group to buy electricity.

We have discussed this with our Energy Management team and unfortunately this is not something Neoen is currently set up for. We are not an electricity retailer, rather we sell to retailers.

ACTION 2: Neoen to provide information on other communities/projects where they have advocated successfully to improve telecommunications.

At another of our projects (Goorambat in northern VIC), Neoen provided significant financial support to Telstra (conditional on the project going ahead) for a new telecoms tower as part of the blackspot program. Telstra were successful in getting the grant, but the tower hasn't gone up as yet.

ACTION 3: Neoen to share the report from the fire at the Victorian Big Battery.

The report can be viewed here: <https://victorianbigbattery.com.au/2022/01/31/independent-report-released/>

ACTION 4: Neoen to investigate and share any research into microclimate changes, cumulative impact as per the questions asked.

A report on large-scale solar farms can be found here: <https://assets.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/documents/events/event-docs-2019/SIF-2019/Presentations/03-Bronte-Nixon.pdf>

A couple of scientific papers on wind farms and their possible effects on local atmospheric conditions that make for interesting reading can be found here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-02089-2>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0960148118302350>

ACTION 5: Neoen to investigate sound deterrent examples for the next meeting.

Vestas and Siemens Gamesa (two of the main global turbine manufacturers) now offer installation services for a bat deterrent system:

<https://www.nrgsystems.com/news-media/vestas-partners-with-nrg-systems-to-resell-bat-deterrent-technology/>

<https://www.nrgsystems.com/news-media/siemens-gamesa-expands-installation-support-for-nrg-systems-bat-technology/>

ACTION 6: Neoen and the Chair to provide ideas from other areas e.g., Singleton, Musswellbrook where funds/projects have worked well.

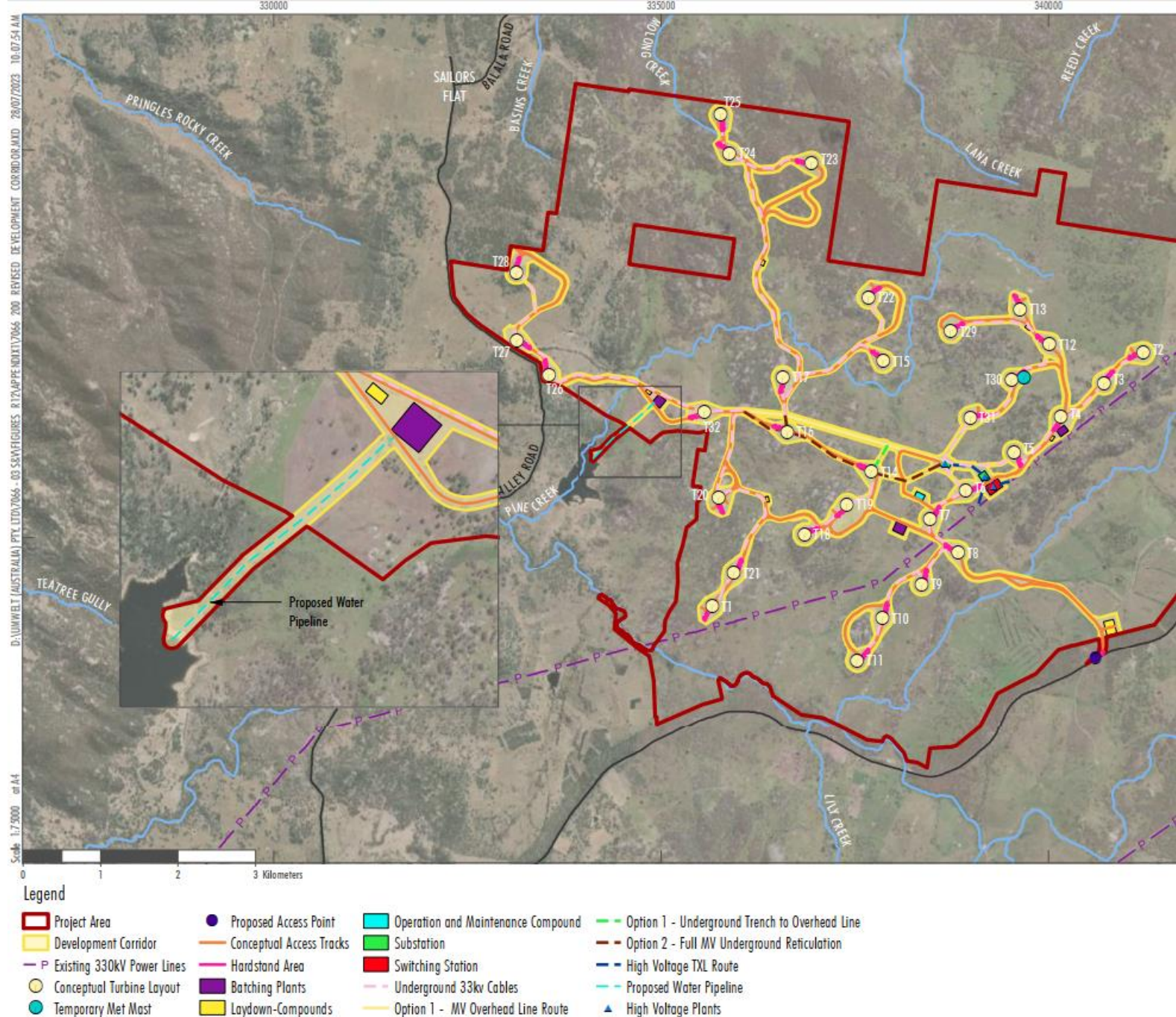
- VBB Deakin scholarship: <https://www.deakin.edu.au/study/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/victorian-big-battery-engineering-scholarship>
- Bulgana Green Power Hub community benefit fund – list of grant recipients and projects which the funds have supported are listed on the website: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/zy2gy37w86tpu9noljlbb/Benefit-sharing-Presentation_23.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=7zh2i3p31izzkny4lwi83p46y
- Learning hub (accessible and hosting free educational content to all): <https://neoenlearning.com/>

1. Actions from the last CCC Meeting

2. Project Update

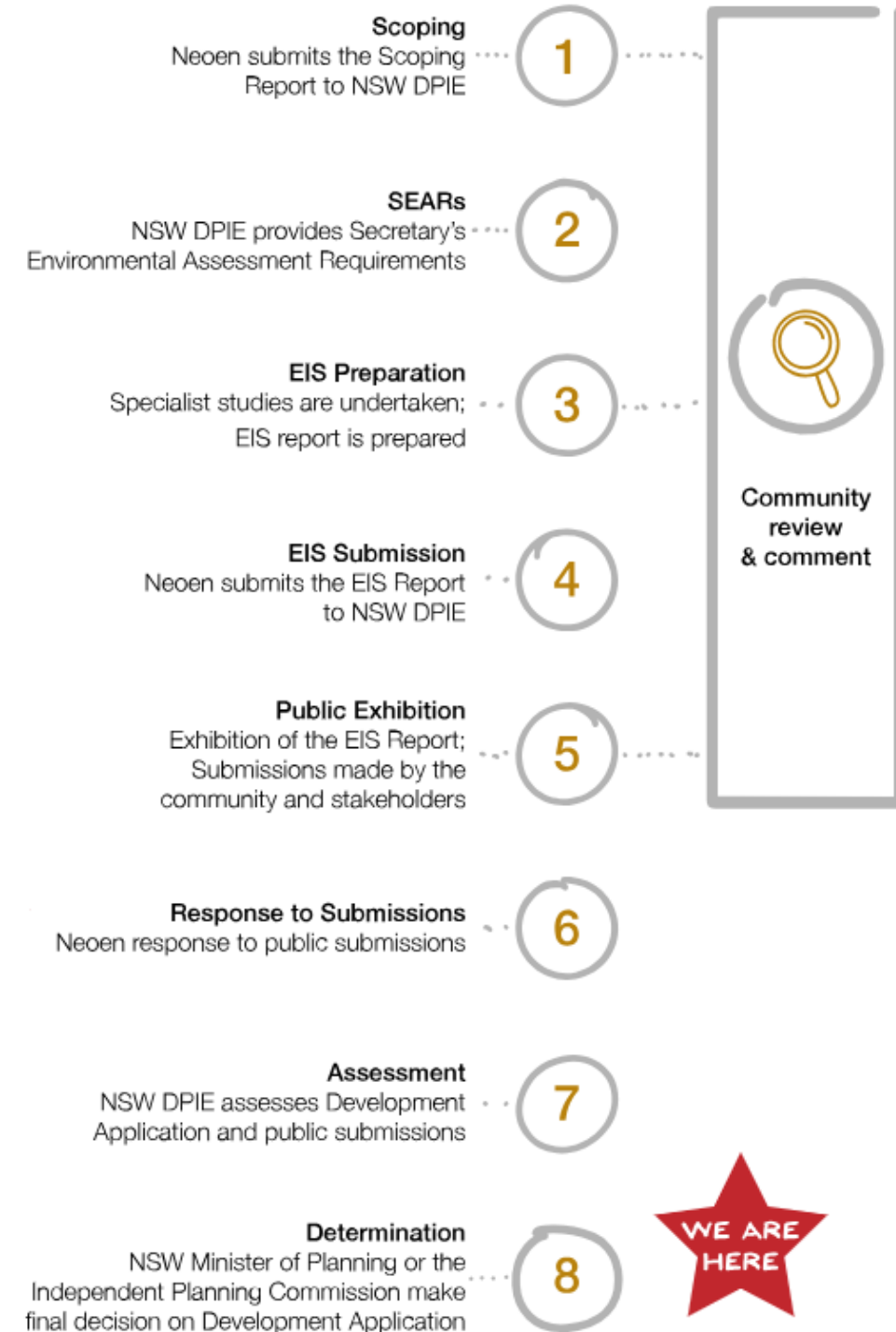
Project Overview

- **Site entrance:** directly off the **NE Highway**.
- **Size:** up to **32 wind turbines** and one onsite substation (29 turbines in **Tamworth Regional** and 3 in **Uralla Shire**).
- **Location:** near Kentucky in the NE REZ.
- **Connection:** into the **existing** 330kV overhead line which crosses the site (Line 86 - Tamworth to Armidale).
- **Infrastructure:** ~45km of internal access roads, O&M Facility, concrete batch plants, construction laydown areas and temporary water pipeline.



Planning Process Update

- Thunderbolt was referred to the IPC by the department of planning on the 20th February 2023.
 - Public meeting at Kentucky Hall,
 - Site Locality Visit with IPC
 - Meetings with Tamworth and Uralla Council.
- As a result of the public meeting, and the assessment of the IPC the project was approved on the 8th May. The approved consent conditions are published on the IPC website, and the NSW planning portal (<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases/2024/02/thunderbolt-wind-farm>)
- Now the project has been approved, there is still a significant amount of work required prior to any construction commencing.
- Neoen would move forward on all secondary consent conditions for the project, and ensure these are appropriately endorsed/approved prior to construction commencing



Pre-construction Engagement



- Accommodation and Employment Strategy with a focus on:
 - Investment in the local supply chain in NSW and New England region
 - Community development that involves training and employment initiatives or programs that reach underrepresented groups
 - Strategies and actions such as pre-employment training, scholarships, cross-skilling to renewables and supporting apprentices
 - Involving First Nations communities, organisations and businesses throughout the construction and operations phases of the project
- Local employment and procurement targets
- Indigenous Participation and employment targets
- Look to engage a Community Liaison Officer and Indigenous Engagement Officer on all projects leading up to and under construction

Local Supplier and Employment

- Closer to the start of construction Neoen and the selected Construction Contractor will hold local employment and supplier information sessions
- Work to identify organizations and networks to support worker development and First Nations groups and individuals

Jobs			
Electricians	Dump Truck	Pipelayers	General Labour
Electricity installation	Watercarts	Telehandler	Land manager
Electrical Trade Assistants	Forklift	Trucks	Equipment maintenance
Loader	Grader	Pile Driver	Administration
Excavator	Roller	Concreters	General Labour

Suppliers			
Accommodation	Food and catering service	Septic pump out services	Waste management
Crane (minor lifts)	Freight	Transport (minor)	Water (potable and construction)
Concreters	Material testing	Mechanical fitter	Welding and engineering fabrication (site services)
Concrete supply (offsite supply)	Fencing and gates	Facility and site office construction	
Earthworks plant (wet and dry hire)	Cleaners	Quarry products	
	Small equipment hire		