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CROOKWELL 2 WINDFARM TO DELIVER CLEAN ENERGY, JOBS AND LOCAL STIMULUS

NSW Government planning approval for modification to the development consent for the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm south east of Crookwell promises to provide a major boost for both jobs and clean energy.

"The approval of the modification gives the go-ahead for construction of larger and more efficient wind turbines, which will result in the generation of 55 or more jobs during construction plus more direct and indirect jobs during the operation phase.", said Mr Hermenegildo Franco, Managing Director of Union Fenosa Wind Australia Pty Ltd (UFWA).

UFWA is one of Australia's leading renewable energy groups with 7 wind farms planned or in development across the country.

"Wherever possible we are committed to promoting the employing of locals in both the construction and operation phases of the development. We will be looking to up-skill the workforce and help diversify the local industry", said Mr Franco.

"The successful modification changes the dimensions of the 46 turbines previously approved by the Department of Planning from a height of 107metres turbines (to the top of the blade tip) to a maximum height of 128 metres."

"The energy produced by the wind farm will be able to power approximately 39,000 households, and help reduce greenhouse gases by around 244,000 tonnes a year, resulting in greenhouse gas savings the equivalent of taking around 56,000 cars off the road over the planned life of the project and it will contribute towards the 20% renewable energy target set by the Federal Government." Mr Franco said.

"Put another way, the wind farm will have the greenhouse positive effect of planting some 365,000 trees."

"The larger turbines will bring increased efficiency and result in considerably improved electricity production and result in increased greenhouse abatement benefit."

"We have also communicated to the Upper Lachlan Council our intention to become involved in community projects with the aim of selecting projects with maximum community benefit.

"As a result of this approval, the company will be required to satisfy several changed conditions under the modification permit."

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